

Submitter: Michelle Hsu
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB528

“Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

I’m writing in support of SB 528. My name is Michelle Hsu, and I am a member of the Linn Benton Lincoln Health Equity Alliance. SB 528 will provide critical resources to RHECs so they can continue reducing health inequities by identifying the most important issues impacting priority populations in underserved, rural regions of Oregon. By assessing these barriers through grassroots community engagement, they are able to uplift the voices of their communities to create effective solutions through policy and systems change. The expansion of RHECs will ensure that priority populations all over the state are getting their needs met.

I support this bill because Regional Health Equity Coalitions are instrumental in connecting community organizations and members to information and education on issues from food security to education justice, from mental health support to voting rights, from language accessibility to housing and much more. Issues are often linked together affecting members of our communities who feel isolated and ignored. RHECs work to bring visibility and voice to our neighbors in need, in order to see and hear what is needed rather than deciding without guidance. Expanding this work across the state has the potential of reaching thousands of residents and improving Oregon's health outcomes.

This resource is vital to our community and these resources will allow for an immediate increase in Regional Health Equity Coalitions capacity to support them. Please vote yes on SB 528.”

Thank you,
Michelle Hsu
LBLHEA Researcher