

Submitter: Eli Cox
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB528
Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for considering this testimony and I'm writing in support of SB 528. My name is Eli Cox and I am a community member and have worked for almost the last decade in violence prevention mainly in rural and frontier communities in Oregon. SB 528 will provide critical resources to Regional Health Equity Coalitions (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 RHECs play a pivotal role in preventing violence and drastically reducing disparities caused by systems and practices that never were designed to consider and value all of our neighbors. We can always learn and continue to build and do better than the generations before us and hopefully those who come after us will do the same, but investing in RHECs now can play a large role in futures that are safer and healthier for all.

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. I urge you to vote yes on SB 528.

Thank you for your time ~ Eli Cox