

Submitter: Eli Cox
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB530
Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing in support of SB 530. My name is Eli Cox, I am a community member and have spent almost the last decade working in rural and frontier communities to prevent violence and abuse. SB 530 will provide critical resources to RHECs so they can continue their work to reduce health inequities by identifying the most important issues impacting their communities. By assessing these barriers through grassroots community engagement, they are able to uplift the voices of their communities to create solutions to barriers through policy and systems change. RHECs need to be provided with funding that will keep up with the cost of doing business in our state so that they can continue to serve those most underserved and create a healthier, more resilient Oregon for all.

Having grown up in a small rural town in Oregon, and having lived most my life in rural Oregon as well, I wonder how much harm could have been spared for so many of my friends and family through the years. Ripple effects are so wide ranging especially now watching the kids of my friends I went to elementary school with who are growing up without their parents because they have passed, often due to violence in some way or another. They were forgotten by systems, and were not considered with much less access to resources and supports. For this reason of healthier and safer futures for all and what RHECs mean to people in rural Oregon, I support this bill.

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 530.

Thank you,
Eli Cox