



# Oregon Latino Health Coalition

Health and wellness through equity and justice

Oregon Latino Health Coalition  
245 SW Bancroft Street, Suite E  
Portland, OR 97239

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

The Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC) supports the passage of SB 528 to support Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) capacity to support health equity efforts across Oregon.

RHECs are autonomous, community-driven, cross-sector groups. The RHEC model works by building on the inherent strengths of local communities to meaningfully involve them in identifying sustainable, long-term, policy, system, and environmental solutions. These coalitions help to increase health equity for communities of color, and those living at the intersection of race/ethnicity and other marginalized identities.

The Oregon Latino Health Coalition advances the health of Latinos through policy, advocacy, and prevention with the vision that all Latinos in Oregon achieve optimal health and wellness. We create change through community based research, participation, and advocacy. OLHC shares RHEC values of the involvement of community members to ensure that everyone in Oregon has an equitable opportunity to receive and access resources.

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. 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. We urge you to vote yes on SB 528 and equity for all.

Sincerely,

Olivia Quiroz  
Executive Director  
Oregon Latino Health Coalition