

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

February 28, 2025

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

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC) in support of SB 530 which 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 match the rate of inflation and the cost of living so that they can continue to serve those most underserved and create a healthier, more resilient Oregon for all.

The Oregon Latino Health Coalition is a statewide advocacy organization that 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 supports this bill because it is important to fund the RHEC model of strengthening local community needs through sustainable, long-term, policy, system, and environmental solutions. As a current member of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance, OLHC supports the importance of investing in community-led and driven solutions for policy change.

SB 530 is a vital investment 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 530.

Sincerely,

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Olivia Quiroz Executive Director Oregon Latino Health Coalition