

Submitter: Jae Viles-Erdelt
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 Jae Viles-Erdelt, and I am a student at Portland State University, and a member of the Confederated Tribes Of The Siletz Indians. 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 due to the intersectionality of identities of myself and people in my communities and colonial structure of the health industry it is extremely difficult for us to get the help we need. I have had too many family members and friends suffer with chronic illness and even death because they have nowhere to go, and no one to advocate for them. Now more than ever it is important for us to invest resources into these efforts to help marginalized communities who are statistically more burdened by health issues due to environmental injustices and lack of access.

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,
Jae Viles-Erdelt