



March 22, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Support Regional Health Equity Coalitions in the State Budget

Co-Chairs Sanchez, Lieber, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance, OHEA, we are writing in support of SB 5506: our ask is to specifically support SB 528, RHEC expansion, and SB 530, adjusting RHEC budgets for the cost of doing business.

OHEA is a people of color-led collaborative, organized to center and uplift the wisdom of our communities of color through racial justice informed health equity policies and practices. OHEA serves Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties as one of nine regional health equity coalitions across Oregon.

Funding RHEC expansion and cost of business adjustment will provide critical resources to RHECs so they can continue to support in reducing health inequities by identifying the most important issues impacting priority populations in underserved, rural regions of Oregon. By assessing these barriers through grass roots community engagement and advocacy, they are able to uplift the voices of their communities by creating solutions to barriers through policy and systems change. The expansion and cost of business adjustment for 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 fund SB 528 and SB 530.

Thank you,

Oregon Health Equity Alliance

