

Submitter: Itzel Coss
On Behalf Of: Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB564

January 31,2023

Dear Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care,

I am in support to increase funding for Regional Health Equity Coalitions such as the Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance. As a community member, I have witnessed the lack of culturally responsive outreach and support for the Indigenous Latin American community living in our area. This community has been typically placed under the umbrella term “Spanish speaking”, but they have their own unique culture, history, and language. They face different challenges when navigating health systems such as limited Spanish and English skills compared to other Latino groups in the area. With the support Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance, a colleague and I were able to start our own group to connect and collaborate with the community directly. So far we have been able to connect the community a resource that will create positive health outcomes that they may not have been able to obtain due to systemic barriers. Please vote in support for SB 564, so RHECs across the state can continue to make an impact for underrepresented groups like this one and many more.

Thank you,
Itzel Coss