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To: House Revenue Committee

Re: Oppose HB 2089

Date: 2/8/2023

Latino Network was founded in 1996 by advocates for the needs of the growing Latinx community in Multnomah County. Since then, these grassroots beginnings have evolved into a continuum of services that support Latinx individuals, families, and communities. Our programs currently focus on education, advocacy & leadership, health & wellness, economic justice, youth empowerment & violence prevention, and arts & culture, engaging nearly 11,000 community members throughout Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties in the last year. We are the leading culturally-specific provider for Latinx youth, parent, and family services in the Portland area with the goal of serving the nearly 19% of Oregon's population who identify as Latinx or Hispanic.

Latino Network currently provides direct services to youth and families in Senate Districts 13 and 19-25 and House Districts 25, 37 and 42-50.

Please reject HB 2089

Measure 110 BHRNs provide services pre-diagnosis free of charge and do not require insurance. The Latinx community faces the highest barriers to health insurance coverage.

It is critical for this committee to think beyond silos. We can't solve one problem by creating more, just because that is a different committee's responsibility.

We ask the committee to keep in mind, the OHA has also created a county by county formula for how BHRN funds will be allocated. 11% might not sound like much to some, but it is approximately equal to the combined BHRN allocations of Coos, Columbia, Lincoln, Clatsop, Malheur, Tillamook, Wasco, Union, Cook, Jefferson, Hood River, Curry, Baker, Morrow, Lake, Harney, Grant, Wallowa, Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties

We appreciate the focus on the humanitarian crisis and the people who are being trafficked for their labor. This deeply painful reality is being held up as the reason we must cut health care services. This is the wrong approach. But this is a very real crisis and the people impacted deserve support and care too. I hope all the elected officials who want to address that issue are willing to support real solutions like HB 627 for Universal Representation and Oregon Worker Relief Fund, SB 610 for Food for All, and investments in the Oregon Office of Immigration and Refugee Advancement.