



## CAPACES Leadership Institute

*Instituto de Liderazgo CAPACES*

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Date: February 22, 2023

To: Chair Representative Rob Nosse, Vice-Chair Representative Christine Goodwin,  
Vice-Chair Representative Travis Nelson and House Committee On Behavioral Health and  
Health Care

From: Joanne Mina  
Alianza Poder Network Coordinator  
Capaces Leadership Institute  
356 Young St, Woodburn, OR 97071

RE: Letter of Support for HB 2925 and HB 2918

Dear House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I write on behalf of the Central Oregon Immigrant community in support of HB 2918 which calls for Oregon Health Authority to continue the pilot program providing grants to entities to operate mobile health units and HB 2925 which extends deadlines for affinity group task forces to complete their work with respect to allocations of resources to address communities' needs and health inequities faced by communities and to report recommendations to Legislative Assembly.

The goal of the mobile health units and the affinity group task forces is to address historical health disparities faced by Black, Indigenous and other non-white people in Oregon. Hundreds of years of inequity can not be captured in months and I hope you support this work to continue and provide the legislature with models based on collaborative governance steeped in community-based wisdom to create new processes and practices that center racial equity.

In 2020 with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes county migrant community was in the front lines of our economy, keeping Oregon going during times that called for collective care. Immigrants and Latine/a/x/o Oregonians in central Oregon had early and higher rates of Covid because we were and continue to be essential workers in Oregon exposed to hazards like the coronavirus. My work with institutions and organizations like Deschutes and Jefferson County Public health, Latino community Association and the collaborative El Concilio allow me to see the health disparities caused by lack of timely and culturally aware information, outreach and most importantly healthcare. When the opportunity to participate in the Health Equity Advisory Leaders (HEAL) committee opened up, I saw the need and possibility to continue the work of collaborating with Oregon healthcare leaders for the wellbeing of all Oregonians.



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HEAL brings together Oregonians from historically excluded and underserved communities to discuss the problems our communities face and solutions that our communities need. We break down governance and make it accessible to all participating which allow us to truly explore collaborative governance bringing together changemakers within government and BIPOC residents and organizations as well as racial and social justice practitioners to bring the Oregon legislature recommendations on process and policies born out of collective consensus and community wisdom.

As you know, no community is a monolith and in Central Oregon our thriving Immigrant community includes Indigenous Purepecha families that do not have adequate access to healthcare information and care in their first language. Racial equity is a commitment to guaranteeing ALL have the support needed to thrive and especially in the context of healthcare is becoming aware that harm can be caused to a community simply by ignoring their differences or expecting them to assimilate to our current system.

I urge you to support HB 2925 and HB 2918 for the wellbeing and health of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Joanne Mina