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Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Esteemed Joint Subcommittee on Human Services,

My Name is Janet Hamada of The Next Door inc,

At The Next Door, Inc. (TNDI) we envision a supportive community where all children and families are safe, healthy, and valued. Nearly 50 years ago, TNDI was founded to address the unmet need of support services for troubled youth. Today, TNDI facilitates nearly 40 programs in Treatments Services, Health Promotion, Youth Services, Economic Development, Consulting Services, and Family Services. TNDI approaches its work by addressing the community as a whole, asking, listening, and responding in order to build capacity, plan, and implement initiatives alongside the community. Following this approach, the majority of TNDI's current programs have been created in response to expressed needs from community members and partners. We serve over 4,500 people annually and much of TNDI's work focuses on underserved and/or at risk populations including the Latino/a/x community, foster care youth, education, low income families, and those with other barriers to accessing to resources.

I would like to express our support for **Senate Bill 5525** and our gratitude for current service level funding and that additional funding was included in the Governor's proposed budget. This will ensure Community Based Organizations (CBOs) will be resourced to continue providing much needed supports to our communities. The following are some compelling examples of the community work our organization has done with Health Equity funding from OHA, including work related the pandemic:

- Native American weatherization project to support families with environmental changes
- Mobile COVID-19 outreach events (providing testing, education, COVID-19 vaccines, and outreach through community partner collaboration for Native Americans)
- Connection to resources – financial, housing, health care
- Continued health education / awareness on COVID-19 and mental health (recording and airing PSAs in cultural specific, native community members language)
- Latino and Native American presence in steering committee to provide input in developing new parks

That said, additional funding would allow CBOs to continue to support communities. We respectfully request an investment of \$286M above current service level for OHA's Public Health Modernization Budget, which includes \$100M for CBOs who are a lifeline to Oregon's most diverse and marginalized populations. TNDI is a member organization of the Community Health Equity Coalition made up of more than 80 community-based organizations who are collectively responding to public health needs of more than 500,000 Oregonians. As a Coalition, we believe we are a stronger Oregon and can play a critical role in decreasing health inequities by responding to our community's needs, by uplifting their solutions to those needs. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support of this budget request.

Respectfully,

Janet Hamada, Executive Director