

Submitter: Patricia Patron
On Behalf Of: Familias en Accion
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure: HB2990

March 23, 2023

My name is Patricia Patrón and I am the Deputy Director at Familias en Acción. Familias en Acción is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the Latino/x/e community in the state of Oregon. We serve families through teams of community health workers who provide health education, navigation and support services for health care access, chronic disease management, emergency preparedness, and food insecurity. We have led this work with a clear understanding that inequitable public policies, racial discrimination, and systems that marginalize our communities only exacerbate and perpetuate recurrences of chronic illnesses, food insecurity, and mental health decline in our community members.

I'm writing to express our support to HB 2990 which will create a grant program through the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management that will go directly to communities to build and implement Community Resilience Hubs and networks. We support Community Resilience Hubs because: We have seen first hand the health inequalities, disproportionate gaps, and lack of support systems our Latine community members face when natural disasters and emergencies take place, in particular for those residing in rural areas. We understand that community resources have been exploited, over extracted, and polluted by capitalist and colonial forces, leading to a cycle of inequitable effects of climate change –more disproportionately affecting marginalized communities. Latino/x/e communities believe in the power of family, friends, and neighbors coming together to support each other during difficult times. Community resilience hubs will provide safe spaces for dealing with emergencies and also as trusted environments where communities can come together to learn and support each other.

I urge you to vote Yes on HB 2990 to invest in building stronger communities, and create the resources and connections to make it easier for Oregonians the next time disaster strikes. Stronger communities can make the difference between surviving and thriving.

Sincerely,

Patricia Patrón
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