

Co-Chairs Sanchez, Lieber, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Mayra Rosales, and I am the Program Coordinator for the Health Equity Coalition of Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties. I'm writing in strong support of SB 5006—specifically SB 528 for RHEC expansion and SB 530 to adjust RHEC budgets to account for the increasing cost of doing business.

Funding RHEC expansion and making cost-of-business adjustments is essential to sustaining and growing the work of RHECs. These funds support our ability to address persistent health inequities by engaging directly with the communities most impacted, many of whom live in underserved and rural areas across Oregon. Our work is rooted in grassroots, culturally responsive engagement and informed by lived experience. This model is effective in identifying real barriers and shaping systems and policies that promote equity and inclusion.

I support this bill because I've seen firsthand the impact RHECs have on communities that are often left out of decision-making spaces. In our region, we've built trust with immigrant and Latino families, rural workers, and people navigating multiple systemic challenges. We've conducted needs assessments, coordinated with partners to respond to local health disparities, and created spaces where community voices lead the solutions. Without adequate funding, this work is at risk of being reduced or paused—at a time when communities need it the most.

This investment is vital to our community. Additional resources will directly strengthen our capacity to respond quickly, deepen engagement, and expand our reach. I urge you to fund SB 528 and SB 530 by voting yes on SB 5006.

Thank you,

Mayra Rosales