



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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For more information, Contact:
Hannah Kurowski:
Hannah.Kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon House Passes Bill to Expand Regional Health Equity Coalitions

SB 70 Requires Oregon Health Authority to work with regional health equity coalitions and funds additional grants for organizations seeking to build regional health equity coalitions and to provide additional staff support.

SALEM, OR—Yesterday, the Oregon House passed [Senate Bill 70](#) which would expand the Regional Health Equity Coalition model across the state of Oregon.

The Regional Health Equity Coalitions are grassroots community members and culturally specific community-based organizations who come together to identify the most pressing health equity issues within their communities. These coalitions work to address avoidable barriers to health and wellbeing at the policy and systems level for communities of color.

“We know health inequities are the result of centuries of persisting systems of oppression and racism” said [Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon](#) (D-Woodburn).” We also know that it will take intentional effort and state investments to undo the barriers in our policies and laws which have dire impacts on people’s lives. These barriers echo through generations, from our elders to our children. SB 70 will help to create and strengthen community-based pathways to action to address these health inequities.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgency to address the deep inequities that have existed for so long and for so many, and the need to respond to these preventable challenges across the social determinants of health, especially for communities of color.

SB 70, which passed 47-11, now moves to the Governor’s Desk to be signed into law.

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