

**ELIZABETH STEINER HAYWARD MD**  
**STATE SENATOR**



February 13, 2014

**OREGON STATE SENATE**  
**DISTRICT 17**

Sen. Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
Rep. Peter Buckley, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways & Means

I write today in strong support of the request for \$3,000,000 in bonding to support the development of the Beaverton Collaborative Health Center (BCHC). The BCHC represents a remarkable vision by the City of Beaverton and its partners, the Virginia Garcia Clinic, Lifeworks, Community Action, Head Start, Providence ElderPlace, and Women's Health Associates. Central Beaverton has a very high poverty rate, and many local residents need health care and mental health services, and qualify for support from a range of safety net services such as housing support and SNAP. Too often, these services are provided at multiple locations, requiring people to navigate public transit, take extended time away from work, and leaving each member of the team serving an individual unaware of what other services are or should be offered to facilitate their well-being.

As a family physician, I am all too aware of the need for coordinated care. Often, I'll see a patient with an acute mental health need, and in our practice I'll be able to do a 'warm hand-off' to our in-house social worker. A personal introduction to the next person on the team makes it much more likely that a person will follow through with the care plan. However, when my patient is struggling with housing issues, or food insecurity, I'm forced to give them a printed list of phone numbers, leaving them to navigate through a complex system.

The BCHC will provide a remarkable model of how to overcome these barriers to care. Health care providers will partner with mental health specialists, experts in safety net services, and others to optimize an individual's or family's situation. Furthermore, the BCHC will serve as a teaching facility for dental hygiene & optometry students from Pacific University, and medical students and residents from Oregon Health & Science University.

Beaverton and its partners have already obtained commitments for \$27 million of the \$33 million needed to develop the facility. The commitment of \$3,000,000 in bonding from the state will allow them to be more viable candidates for grants from charitable foundations with an interest in innovative delivery systems, and for federal funds from the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA). HRSA has already been supportive of the BCHC, providing initial grant funding to start the project, and has expressed interest in contributing more now that the project has been developed so well. A commitment of support from the State would go a long way toward bringing the vision to fruition.

I am happy to provide further information if it would be of assistance in considering this request. Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of the BCHC bonding.

Most sincerely yours, )

Elizabeth Steiner Hayward MD  
State Senator, District 17

