



March 6, 2014

Members of the Sub-committee on Capitol Construction  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Legislators;

The Oregon Medical Association supports OHSU's request for \$200 M. in capital construction bonds to fund scientific research and clinical trials space in two new buildings. The construction of these two buildings lays the foundation for the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute to expand its transformational cancer research through a \$1 billion philanthropic contribution. This \$1.2 billion total investment will revolutionize cancer treatment by building upon the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute's pioneering work in personalized medicine to develop next generation tests and technologies that detect and treat cancer before it is fatal.

Oregon patients will be the first to benefit from these life-saving advances. An investment of this magnitude will enable OHSU to attract researchers from around the world, who, with funding, can dedicate their expertise to ending cancer as we know it, faster. Oregon health care providers will have the opportunity to implement these new detection and treatment methods. Our providers, working side-by-side with world class researchers, will be able to provide the best cancer care available today and ensure the next generation of physicians, nurses and health care professionals receive the best possible training. The institute will also make a significant new investment in community-based cancer outreach programs focused on rural and underserved populations.

It is also critical to highlight the economic benefits of this proposal, as we know that a strong economy is a key component to a healthy community. In addition to providing thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of permanent full-time jobs, this investment will also create a new center for economic activity in biomedical research and technology, resulting in long-term industry growth. The public/private match included in this request provides a win/win for the state by leveraging the state's limited resources.

Historically, OHSU has lived up to its promises- they have been more efficient as a public corporation, expanded their activities, improved their facilities and become a nationally recognized center of research with the state's past investments. While this is a big project, the OMA is confident that OHSU will once again meet its obligations and make the most of the public's continued investment in its work.

We urge you to act now so OHSU can begin the massive effort of building new facilities and recruiting the best researchers from around the world.

Sincerely,

The OMA Executive Committee

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