

From: [Rep Fahey](#)
To: [JWMHS Exhibits](#)
Subject: RE: Statement re: saving Oregon State Hospital in Junction City
Date: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 6:27:57 PM

Please accept this testimony from Krystal Wu on HB 5026, relating to OHA funding for the Junction City Hospital.

Thank you,

Jake Foster
Lead Legislative Assistant
Representative Julie Fahey | District 14
(503) 986-1414

From: Krystal Wu [mailto:krystal.m.wu@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 7:54 PM
To: Rep Fahey <Rep.JulieFahey@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Statement re: saving Oregon State Hospital in Junction City

Dear Representative Fahey,

Thank you for collecting stories from individuals regarding the Oregon State Hospital in Junction City. I live in Portland but grew up in Eugene, where my family still lives. The hospital in Junction City literally saved my brother's life. My brother, who is now an adult, struggled with schizophrenia for many years but was often not lucid enough to take medication or attend consistent therapy. In November of 2015, in an acute psychotic state, he assaulted and almost killed my father. This was the scariest event that has ever taken place in our family as we didn't know if my father would survive or if my brother would end up in prison where we were certain he would not get the rehabilitative and mental health care we knew he needed.

Fast forward several heart-wrenching months spent in the jail in Eugene as well as some weeks at the psychiatric hospital in Salem, and my brother has been living in Junction City at the State Hospital since July of 2016. During the time Nicholas has been at the JC hospital, he has become a new person. It's like I have my little brother back! The first few visits, Nicholas seemed down and a little out of it, but the longer he has been there, the more lucid and self-advocating he has become. He talks positively about attending therapy, has acknowledged that he has a mental illness, and is willing to talk about his previous psychotic episodes for what they were -- paranoia, not truth. In the eight years since he first started showing signs of schizophrenia, I have never heard him speak about his mental illness as something he can manage and get under control until he lived at the hospital in JC. The staff there is incredibly welcoming and warm, both to him and to my family when we go visit, and his time so far has been therapeutic, humanizing, and empowering. I wish more people with mental illness could receive the level of care that my brother has, as I am sure more people would have similarly life-changing results.

My brother had to be put on suicide watch when he was in jail, which was incredibly

dehumanizing and served to exacerbate his mental illness. The hospital has had the opposite effect; it is truly a place of healing.

I am incredibly grateful to the State of Oregon and the Oregon taxpayers for supporting the level of psychiatric care available at the Junction City State Hospital. Please think carefully before voting to close its doors or defund the facility -- people's lives are saved every day because of the work that is done there.

Thank you for your time, and please feel free to call or email if you have questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,
Krystal Wu
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