



March 21, 2017

Joint Ways and Means Committee
900 Court St. NE S-323
Salem, OR 97301

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Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Homestead Board Members, dedicated staff and the young Oregonians we serve. Currently, Homestead has five active board members who represent a range of interests in Umatilla county from the CTUIR to banking and private business to the school system, legal system and government. They join the staff in being dedicated to reaching the young and vulnerable youth of our state so that they can go on to be productive Oregonians.

We want to thank you for supporting your constituents as we (providers of services to at-risk Oregonians) and the children we serve are among those who live in your community. Our mission is to keep children safe while they are with us and to help them resolve a range of issues related to being able to function successfully in society. Often, youngsters arrive to us with extensive histories of trauma, mental health issues, academic deficits and learning challenges, substance abuse issues, lack of a safe place to live and a high chance of future incarceration.

In our Behavioral Rehabilitation Services programs, we offer treatment in a residential setting and foster homes for these youngsters to have a safe and structured place to begin to build their lives toward a successful future.

The children we serve in our programs at Homestead often go on to become contributing members of our community and state. We regularly enjoy visits from past clients who tell us of their college graduation, military service, successful relationships and parenting, career aspirations and success and community involvement.

These children have come so far, we cannot stop extending ourselves to provide a safety net and springboard to success. Please come visit us and see for yourself or visit with a Board member. You have an open invitation any time to stop in to visit.

Again, we appreciate your support and service to this district and its constituents.

Elisa

Elisa Doebler-Irvine, Ph.D.
Executive Director