

Good afternoon,

I am writing to tell my story and call to action for those who are working at this time.

Currently, my husband is at work at the Children's Farm Home in Corvallis, OR in their out-patient treatment facility, North Point. The primary focus of their treatment is to help students who have various mental illnesses build pro-social skills in a school setting, so they can succeed in a typical school setting in the future. His clients are some of the most vulnerable populations that the state of Oregon has.

Since the school at the Children's Farm Home have shut down, the clients are mostly on the unit watching television and engaging in some crafts and a therapy group a day, before going home to their families. While the therapy group and prosocial skills are important to learn, I believe that the risk from the COVID19 is too high for what they are getting out of treatment.

One of the staff has a father who has tested positive for COVID19, who she visits regularly in Linn County. Moreover, one of the clients' fathers works at the Veterans Home in Lebanon which has 14 positive cases of COVID19. As we have learned from the first case in New York, this puts the entire unit in danger.

With these two people who are regularly frequenting the same facility as my husband, I am worried that my husband will also contract the virus. My husband works with others who are vulnerable populations to contract the virus, such as some respiratory sensitive individuals and autoimmune suppressed individuals.

Currently, my brother, who has recently suffered a severe traumatic brain injury and respiratory failure from an injury is staying with us. If my husband contracts the virus (due to worries of not getting paid and continuing to work), then he could easily spread it to my brother who is highly vulnerable and will almost assuredly need hospitalization.

Please, please, please help pay for workers like my husband to stay home and social distance in this time. While pieces of the Farm Home may need to stay open due to its hospital level of care in the Secure Inpatient units, I absolutely do not think his unit is necessary to stay open, as the schools have closed and the clients he is working with are re-entering the community every afternoon.

His company, Trillium Family Services, is trying to say that North Point is giving "semi-hospital-like" level of care, which is simply not true. I used to work at the Children's Farm Home and I can attest that it is in the best interest of the clients and workers for North Point to close its doors until the virus passes.

Please, please, please consider helping all non-essential social service workers by paying for their healthcare and time off from work during this time. Particularly those that are only open for parts of the day (9am-4pm, etc) Please allow workers to have extra paid sick or vacation time in this crisis. My family, and so many others, depend on it as a way to not lose our loved ones unnecessarily.

Thank you.

Jen Beard