

Co-Chairs Lieber, and Nosse, members of the committee, for the record, my name is Leah Silaev, and I am an Adult Foster Home provider.

During this time of crises from increased homelessness with drugs and alcohol abuse on the rise, Adult foster Homes for Mental Health provide stability and choices for adults with mental illness. We provide them with a home like environment and self-choices, while ensuring they get the support and critical services that stabilize and keep them stable, off the streets, and out of the hospitals and jails.

Adult Foster Homes provide multiple services, as we the Providers wear many hats. We are everything from cooks, shoppers, appointment makers, medication administrators, maintains and yard workers, bookkeepers and housekeepers to being some residents "mom and pop", friend, and family. As many in this population of mental illness have lost touch with their family members, who have burnt out or passed on. We fill their places, and are honored to do so.

As an essential worker during this Covid 19 pandemic, and for the last 15 years I have seen many other facilities get increases while Adult Foster Homes did not receive any. As an example, other care provider settings received covid 19 pandemic raises for being an essential worker. Adult Foster Homes did not receive any of these funds as we continued to work and kept our Residents safe from Covid 19 and out of the hospitals. I can say as a mental health exclusive, Adult Foster Home that we are excluded on a regular basis when APD and DD are mentioned in the budget process. This is apparent in our communities. That the need for mental health services is lacking, and the support that many of our homeless are needing is not there.

At this time, we as Adult Foster Home Providers, and especially the ones who care for our mentally ill ask for your support, to help us continue to do what we love doing, for the people we care so deeply for, the residents in Adult Foster Homes across this district, and the state Oregon. Please support our work by helping us stay open for the most venerable citizens by increasing our rates and investing in the system that supports them by providing essential services to them and the state of Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Leah Silaev, AMH AFH Provider