BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 13, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Re: Support for SB 5505

Dear Co-Chairs Sollman and Evans, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety:

We strongly support continued and Improving People's Access to Community-based Treatment, Supports, and Services (IMPACTS) funding. Deschutes County was fortunate to have been awarded approximately $4.8 million in IMPACTS funding, which is set to expire in June of 2024

The Deschutes County Stabilization Center (DCSC) currently operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Our DCSC has become a national model for success, thanks in large part to the IMPACTS funding. We invite you to visit and tour our facility and learn about our operations. Without continued funding, operations could be significantly impacted with corresponding severe adverse impacts to community and partner organizations.

The DCSC is a low barrier facility that serves individuals in crisis. Individuals can walk in or be brought voluntarily by law enforcement. The DCSC offers 24 hour respite as an alternative to higher levels of care.

Since opening in 2020, data indicates that the DCSC has served over 2,600 unique individuals and completed over 8,700 visits. Approximately 30% of individuals served are diverted from the emergency department and 21% are diverted from the criminal justice system. Additionally law enforcement spends less than 5 minutes on site per drop off versus the hours they can spend at the emergency department.
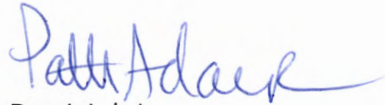
Please support SB 5505 to continue and sustain IMPACTS funding which is critical for DCSC to remain a 24/7/365 operation.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

Anthony DeBone
Chair

Patti Adair
Vice Chair

Phil Chang
Commissioner

CC: Senators Lynn Findley, Tim Knopp, and Dennis Linthicum
Representatives Vikki Breese Iverson, Jason Kropf, E. Werner Reschke, and Emerson Levy