



March 13, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Subject: Support for HB 2544

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwin and Members of the Committee:

My name is Zakir Khan, and I am a Government Relations Manager at Washington County.

I am here to testify in support of HB 2544 on behalf of the County. This bill would assist in the increasing of statewide capacity of licensed residential facilities serving individuals with substance use disorders or mental health concerns. This funding is essential for Washington County because we currently have a roughly \$10 million funding gap that we need to fill to construct and open our Center for Addictions Triage and Treatment (CATT). We have already raised \$51.2 million.

The CATT will be a **comprehensive center** offering assessment, sobering, withdrawal support, residential treatment, stabilization services, peer mentoring and outpatient services. In addition, we want to provide co-located medical, dental, and housing supports so a person with a substance use disorder can get most of their needs met **through a single program**.

With nearly 80,000 sq. ft. of clinical space across two buildings, the center will add 86 treatment beds to our system of care, along with peer mentoring and outpatient supports.

The program is centered on the values of rapid access, racial equity, family inclusion, integrated mental health support and person-centered services. The CATT will bring together systems to provide a central access point into various social services, including supportive housing and employment resources.

The CATT has the vision of **diverting people from the criminal justice system** and hospital emergency departments and connecting them instead to peer supports and drug and alcohol treatment that is responsive to each person's needs.

The development has been a community effort. More than 220 people have provided input into the design. This project was designed by our community, for our community.

The CATT aligns with the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission strategic plan and the goals of Measure 110. **This project will demonstrate real progress** in implementing the vision of the

Commission and our voters. As a result, we urge your support of HB 2544 and appreciate Chair Nosse for bringing this bill forward.

Thank you,

Zakir Khan
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Attached are photos of the future Center for Addiction Triage and Treatment located in Washington County.

