

February 15, 2024

To: The Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

RE: Parrott Creek's Bright Futures Capital Project for Oregon Kids

I am writing to express my fervent support for the final \$8M request to complete the construction of a much-needed residential treatment facility. This facility, with its 40 beds and 28,000 square feet of space, is poised to significantly bolster our capacity to address the pressing issues of substance abuse, mental health disorders, and homelessness among youth in our community.

The importance of this project cannot be overstated. At a time when our society is grappling with escalating rates of addiction and mental health challenges, providing accessible and effective treatment options is paramount. This facility represents a beacon of hope for individuals struggling with these issues, offering a safe haven where they can receive the care and support they need to heal and thrive.

Moreover, the impact of this facility extends far beyond the individuals directly served. By increasing our residential treatment capacity, we are not only alleviating the strain on existing resources but also preventing the need for Child Welfare placements in Temporary Lodging. Too often, children and adolescents are caught in the crossfire of familial addiction and mental illness, leading to unstable living situations and compromised futures. By intervening early and providing comprehensive treatment services, we can disrupt this cycle of instability and vulnerability.

Additionally, this facility plays a crucial role in diverting youth from the criminal justice system. Far too many young people find themselves ensnared in a cycle of incarceration due to untreated substance abuse or mental health issues. By offering an alternative path through residential treatment, we empower these individuals to address the root causes of their behavior and make positive changes in their lives.

Finally, this project addresses the intersectionality of these critical issues with youth homelessness. It is a sad reality that many young people end up on the streets as a result of untreated addiction or mental illness, exacerbating their vulnerability and perpetuating a cycle of despair. By providing a dedicated space for holistic treatment and support, we can offer these youth a lifeline to stability and self-sufficiency.

In conclusion, the completion of this residential treatment facility is not just a worthy investment; it is a moral imperative. By investing in this project, you have the opportunity to make a tangible and lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals and families in our community. I urge you to stand with us in this crucial endeavor and ensure that all youth have access to the care and support they need to thrive.

Thank you,

Kaolee Hoyle