

February 16, 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 a member of the Board of Directors of Parrott Creek, and have been actively involved in its current capital campaign. I live in the Sellwood neighborhood in Portland. I have worked with Parrott Creek for more than five years because I believe in its mission to serve Oregon's youth who need its help.

I am writing to ask you to invest the final \$8M we need to finish a brand new, 40 bed, 28,000 square foot residential treatment campus for Oregon's most vulnerable kids. This is an exciting, sector-leading project that has already gained accolades and awards, is working with local and national experts in trauma-informed design, and helps answer the myriad of crises affecting thousands of children and teenagers in our state. Our project increases residential drug, alcohol and mental health treatment capacity, will help prevent child welfare placements in temporary lodging, assists youth to avoid incarceration, and addresses the intersection of these three critical areas of need with youth who end up homeless on our streets.

We have been planning this capital project for over a decade and we are proud to say that we broke ground with a community ceremony in October last year. Located in rural Clackamas County, our treatment campus is within 30 minutes of downtown Portland and serves both Metro and statewide populations.

For too long Oregon has treated its most vulnerable children like third class citizens. Our project makes sure they are nurtured, honored and respected as the leaders of tomorrow that they truly are. An \$8M investment today will ensure this vision is made possible ASAP. Oregon's youth cannot wait another day, let alone many more years, to get the services they truly need in appropriate infrastructure.

Thank you.

Kurt Ruttum