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**Subject: Support for the Governor's Budget and Behavioral Health Investments**

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services,

I am writing as the Public Affairs and Relations Director at 4D Recovery to express my strong support for the Governor's recommended budget, with a particular emphasis on its vital behavioral health investments. The proposed allocations—**\$90 million** for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, residential care, and withdrawal management; **\$24 million** for workforce incentives to expand treatment capacity; and **\$17 million** for enhanced inpatient SUD and psychiatric services for youth—are critical to ensuring that Oregon can address the growing challenges of substance use and mental health disorders.

In addition, I wholeheartedly support the full funding of the Medicaid budget. Medicaid is an indispensable resource that enables countless Oregonians to access the care they need without facing financial hardship. Given that an estimated 36% of Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members are under the age of 18, fully funding Medicaid is not only an investment in our present but also in the health and stability of our future generations.

These strategic investments save lives and expand access to comprehensive care across the SUD continuum, including detox, treatment, recovery services, and recovery housing. They lay the foundation for a sustainable infrastructure that will position Oregon as a leader in addressing substance use disorders and create healthier, safer communities for all.

I speak from personal experience: I was once caught in the grips of my addiction, homelessness, and the criminal justice system. Through the support of programs like VOA Women Residential and the nurturing environment provided by the Iron Tribe recovery home, I was able to rebuild my life, complete my education, and secure a fulfilling career. My journey from despair to success underscores the transformative power of accessible, well-funded treatment and support services.

I urge you to support the Governor's budget and invest in the necessary resources to ensure that every Oregonian, regardless of their past, has access to the care and opportunities they need to thrive. Your commitment to these investments is not only a commitment to fiscal responsibility but also to the well-being of our communities.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. I respectfully request that you stand with us in supporting this essential budget, and I am available to discuss this matter further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

*Sara Rose Barger*

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