

Dear Legislators,

My name is **Jim Gemelas**, and I serve as a **Patient Board Member** at **Mosaic Community Health**. I'm writing to share my strong support for Mosaic's **Capital Funding Request** for the new **Mosaic Conners Campus** in Bend.

As a patient and community member, I know firsthand how vital Mosaic's services are. Mosaic is a nonprofit community health center — a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) — that cares for more than **32,000 patients across Central Oregon**, including many who are low-income, on the Oregon Health Plan, or uninsured. Mosaic is our region's largest primary care provider for people who rely on the safety net.

Right now in Bend, Mosaic's services are spread out across several locations, making it harder for patients to get the comprehensive care they need. At the same time, demand for care is growing, especially as our population continues to expand.

The proposed **Mosaic Conners Campus**, located on Bend's east side, will change that. It will serve over **20,000 patients** from Bend and nearby communities. What makes this project even more impactful is its **co-location with affordable housing**, being developed by **Housing Works**. That means families and individuals will have direct access to care where they live — reducing barriers and improving health outcomes.

The new **42,000-square-foot facility** will bring together pediatric care, family medicine, behavioral health, pharmacy, and dental services under one roof. Speaking of the demand for dental services, it can take **six months or longer** to get OHP dental care in our region — this new facility will help ease that burden.

It will also house Mosaic's **Street Medicine Team**, who travel across the area to care for people living in shelters and homeless encampments. Having a stable base for their work will allow them to reach more people, more efficiently.

The total cost of the new building is **\$47 million**, and we are requesting **\$4 million in state bond funding** to help bring this project to life. Mosaic already has **68% of the funding secured**, and we have clear plans for the remainder. Local government and healthcare leaders are firmly behind this project because they see the urgent need for expanded access to care.

The completed Conners Campus will provide the **integrated, compassionate care** our community needs — not just today, but for the future of Central Oregon.

Thank you for your time and for considering this important request. As a patient and community advocate, I can't emphasize enough how transformative this project will be.

Sincerely,
Jim Gemelas
Patient Board Member
Mosaic Community Health