



Milton Freewater

HEALTH AND REHABILITATION CENTER

4/10/2025

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of continued investment in healthcare benefits for essential workers in Oregon's long-term care sector. As an employer in this industry, *Milton Freewater Health & Rehabilitation* understands that access to high-quality, affordable healthcare is a key factor in attracting and retaining a stable workforce. The Essential Worker Healthcare Trust (EWHT) has played a vital role in ensuring caregivers have comprehensive, cost-effective healthcare benefits, which support the recruitment and retention of the dedicated professionals who care for some of Oregon's most vulnerable residents. Continued funding for programs like EWHT is essential to maintaining a strong and sustainable long-term care workforce.

- *EWHT has allowed our staff to better afford health insurances for their families, newly hired staff are always pleasantly surprised at our low premium cost because of the EWHT.*
- *We have seen higher satisfaction and higher enrollment in benefits since we have been part of EWHT.*

We have many single moms and without this lower premium it is much harder for them to provide for their families without getting on state insurance, this benefit allows them to insure their whole family at an incredible price. It is also appreciated by staff who may not have kids but are the sole provider in their household.

Ongoing investment in the Essential Worker Healthcare Trust is an investment in Oregon's long-term care workforce, ensuring that we can continue to provide quality care to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

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