



April 16, 2025

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair

Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair

Joint Committee on Ways & Means

900 Court Street NE

Salem OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Tawna, Co-Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to voice my support for the funding of the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center. The project will provide wrap-around services to low-income residents in the greater Woodburn area, and it has set aside 2 acres for the future development of 50 low-income housing units. These services will be delivered through a collaborative team, which amplifies community assets and reduces barriers to support, while simultaneously supporting residents in affordable housing units.

Both housing and services are critical for the greater Woodburn area:

- 13.7% of residents live in poverty.
- Per capita income in Woodburn is \$22,311, compared to \$35,393 statewide.
- Children under age 5 comprise 6.9% of the population, compared to 5.4% statewide.
- 57% of Woodburn's population identify as Hispanic, compared to 13.4% statewide.
- 54% of Woodburn residents speak a language other than English in their home, compared to 15% statewide.
- 70% of adults in Woodburn are high school graduates, compared to the 91% statewide.

Though the need in Woodburn is high, the opportunity to empower and transform lives is even higher; this is why I support the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center.

United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley serves all of Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties. Our work is centralized around four focus areas: developing housing for all, strengthening children and families, building community capacity and meeting basic needs. United Way has funded



many projects and initiatives in Woodburn over the years including a new soccer field, NW Hub for their work with the migrant workers, food boxes during the pandemic, and food boxes and other relief during the 2022 ice storm, just to name a few.

I respectfully request that you approve funding for the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center. It will empower the community and facilitate immense positive impact in our nonprofit community.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Wolf
CEO