



February 3, 2026

Co-chair Leiber and Sanchez, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

For the record, my name is Katrina Brink and I'm a Behavioral Professional. I work at James Street House in Newberg.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input as you move along the ways and means process relating to the budget reduction exercise the agencies presented to you last year. I want to highlight the importance of the SACU program and the devastating impact any reductions would have on the community as a whole, and the I/DD.

I have been with SACU/SOCP for almost 27 years, advocating for continued budgetary support is the normal for the I/DD population and for those with the highest needs even more so. None of the residents came to SACU as their first stop but after numerous failed placements. The failures were not by the individual or the provider that offered services but an attempt by the system that an individual with the highest needs after having a successful period didn't need them anymore, or after rapid fire placements in a row a particular environment would be the quick fix only after severe injury to themselves, others, and property does SACU become necessary and when those higher needs are not met in other settings do they return. I write the support plans and train the staff in the home and work with external stake holders to access their needs whether medically, socially, spiritually, educationally, and so on. I am blessed in Newberg to have great local police, hospital, and behavioral health who have an understanding and respect for this population. Those that I have worked for were first and foremost born with physiological brain difference and some have mental health diagnosis in part on how the effects of their biological differences are exhibited which my individuals have a higher intensity from the average I/DD. At the hospital they write treatment plans and in SACU I write support or care plans that address the whole person that includes their past, present and future in all areas. They are not bad or broken, nor will I fix or cure anyone but only help them to get to a baseline where they discover and experience enjoyment safely in however that looks to them. My clients all have experienced trauma that I cannot fathom in every category not just one in each column but numerous. Many fails in the private sector are due to lower staffing because simply bad things have happened when there were fewer people around. SACU is a necessary cog in the continuum of care for the I/DD population, I/DD should be able to fully support this population from the cradle to the grave. Its dangerous for these people to end up in jail or hospital and is not what the community wants to see as mixing high need populations as led to extensive victimization. I can read it in their psycho social histories and can see it around the country when they mix populations and mixing us more under OHA I fear is a slippery slope. SACU will soon begin to make modifications to its status quo so it can continue to operate well into the future and it will do it. We cannot contract further or it will cost way more to create beds in the future which has happened in other states like Montana. We can learn from other's errors and not replicate them. Perhaps another name change away from SACU which was I think a twist



on California's Crisis and Stabilization Unit, and reflect the firm foundation of certainty we provide our clients while experience chronic not acute crisis. We need to continue maximize our federal reimbursements and making non reimbursed roles more efficient. Please leave SACU budgetarily whole and support us while we adapt into a more solid future for this safety net which is just a small part of the care wheel for the I/DD population but necessary for those with the highest needs and experienced the greatest trauma.

We understand that the state of Oregon is experiencing instability and there are tough decisions being made. As elected leaders, it is your constitutional duty to balance a budget and with that comes the responsibility to also look at other ways to continue to keep Oregon a place where people from all socioeconomic backgrounds can thrive.

I'm here today to speak for the thousands of people we serve. Passing a cuts only budget this session without keeping the most impacted at the center of the decision making process will have extreme consequences. They are your neighbors, your friends, family, and most importantly, your constituents. I urge you to strongly consider using reserves to keep families afloat and spend more time thinking about making strategic decisions for the next few years.

With respect,

Tigard