

April 3, 2026

Matt Gilman  
Oregon Health Authority  
Certificate of Need Program  
Health Care Regulation and Quality Improvement Program  
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 465  
Portland, OR 97232

**Re: Certificate of Need Application – Timber Springs Behavioral Health Hospital**

Dear Mr. Gilman,

On behalf of **Samaritan Health Service**, we are writing to express our strong support for the Certificate of Need application for **Timber Springs**, a proposed behavioral health facility in Springfield, Oregon. We believe this project represents a critical and timely investment in Oregon's behavioral health infrastructure, particularly for **children and adolescents requiring inpatient psychiatric care**.

Across the state, and especially in the southern Willamette Valley, there is a well-documented shortage of **adolescent psychiatric inpatient beds**. This shortage frequently results in youth being boarded in emergency departments or transferred long distances for care, often to facilities in the Portland metropolitan area. These transfers can be disruptive for patients and families, delay treatment, and strain already limited system capacity. Boarding is equally as problematic, with children as young as 10 in our emergency department for more than a week.

The development of Timber Springs will significantly improve access to much-needed psychiatric services for youth by expanding inpatient capacity closer to where patients live. The ability to refer adolescents to Springfield rather than Portland will allow families to remain engaged in care, support better continuity of treatment, and reduce the emotional and logistical burden associated with long-distance placement. From a clinical perspective, proximity to home and family is an important component of effective behavioral health treatment for young people.

We are particularly excited about the planned **co-location of Timber Springs with the Lane Stabilization Center**. This proximity creates meaningful opportunities for coordination between crisis stabilization services and inpatient psychiatric care, supporting smoother transitions and more appropriate placement for youth in behavioral health crisis. Co-location strengthens the continuum of care by ensuring that patients can move efficiently from crisis response to inpatient treatment when necessary, reducing unnecessary emergency department utilization and improving system flow.

As a regional healthcare provider, Samaritan Health Services frequently encounters the challenges caused by limited inpatient psychiatric capacity for adolescents. Timber Springs will help alleviate these pressures not only for Lane County, but for surrounding communities as well, strengthening the overall behavioral health system in Oregon.



Good Samaritan  
Regional  
Medical Center

Samaritan Health Services recognizes Timber Springs as a thoughtfully designed project that aligns statewide behavioral health goals, supports youth and families, and reflects responsible planning in response to demonstrated community need. We have confidence that this facility will deliver high-quality, patient-centered care and serve as a valuable partner within the regional healthcare network.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage the Oregon Health Authority to approve the Certificate of Need application for Timber Springs. This project represents an essential step forward in addressing Oregon's adolescent behavioral health crisis and ensuring that youth receive timely, appropriate care closer to home.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us should additional information be helpful.

Sincerely,

**Marty Cahill**  
President and CEO  
Samaritan Health Services

**Robert Fallows, PsyD, MSHA, ABPP**  
Sr Medical Director - Behavioral Health  
Samaritan Medical Group