



December 20, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

Bushnell University strongly supports PeaceHealth Medical Center's proposal to establish a new Behavioral Health Hospital in Springfield. This project addresses a critical need in Lane County by creating a dedicated facility to support individuals experiencing mental illness.

For decades, Bushnell University has been directly adjacent to PeaceHealth's current Behavioral Health inpatient facility. This long-standing proximity has proven that such operations can function seamlessly alongside our campus. Rare incidents have been managed promptly and effectively, underscoring PeaceHealth's professionalism and commitment to safety. Furthermore, PeaceHealth has proven to be a tremendous partner in creating and implementing innovative solutions that enhance and develop the healthcare work force for the region. Our nursing program is the most recent beneficiary of that great partnership.

The proposed new facility will fill a crucial gap in services, providing a supportive environment for individuals in need while reducing strain on emergency services and public resources. We believe this initiative is a necessary and practical step forward in addressing Lane County's ongoing mental health challenges.

We encourage your approval of this important project and thank you for your continued dedication to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
Bushnell University

Gene De Young
Vice President for Finance and Administration / CFO