



Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

March 27, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Co-Chair Lieber and Co-Chair Sanchez

Re: Support for 25-27 Capital Project Funding request for the Lane County Behavioral Health Stabilization Center

Dear Co-Chair Lieber and Co-Chair Sanchez,

Willamette Family Inc. (WF), founded in 1964, is a nationally accredited behavioral health and healthcare service provider in Lane County, Oregon. Licensed by the State of Oregon, WF specializes in substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health (MH) treatment, with a particular emphasis on co-occurring disorders and parenting residential programs.

I am writing to express my strong support for Lane County's capital project funding request to address the gap for the Lane County Behavioral Health Stabilization Center. This initiative is vital to our community and the broader efforts to enhance behavioral health services in the region.

This facility represents a critical investment in our community's behavioral health infrastructure. The Behavioral Health Stabilization Center will provide 24-hour urgent care for individuals experiencing acute behavioral health crises. Its services will include dedicated units for adult and youth behavioral health supervision, intensive substance use disorder treatment, and post-acute care. This comprehensive model is designed to alleviate pressure on overburdened emergency departments while delivering life-saving care to vulnerable individuals.

Furthermore, Lane County has forged a public-private partnership with PeaceHealth to co-locate the Stabilization Center alongside their forthcoming Timber Springs Behavioral Health Hospital. Timber Springs will feature a 96-bed inpatient unit offering services for adolescent, adult, and geriatric patients and intensive outpatient programs. This strategic co-location ensures seamless access to critical care services for those experiencing behavioral health emergencies.

The project has secured approximately half of the required capital through Lane County allocations, federal grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and Oregon Lottery Bond funding. The Capital Project Funding request of 14.5 million is essential to maintaining alignment with the construction and operational timelines for both the Stabilization Center and Timber Springs.



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This funding is not only prudent but urgent. It will enable the expedited establishment of a vital public resource that addresses the intersecting crises of homelessness, addiction, and untreated mental health conditions.

I respectfully urge the committee to grant full consideration to this request, recognizing its potential to significantly improve the well-being of our community and provide essential services to those most in need.

Thank you for your attention and thoughtful deliberation on this matter.

Sincerely,

Eva Williams

Digitally signed by Eva Williams
Date: 2025.03.27 15:58:24 -07'00'

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