



Legacy Health
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April 19, 2019

Senator Fred Girod, Co-chair
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Re: Housing for Mental Health Fund

Legacy Health is Oregon's only locally owned nonprofit health care provider, serving the Portland-Vancouver area and mid-Willamette Valley. We are an integrated network of care providers with over 100 primary care, urgent care and specialty care clinics, and seven community-based and nationally recognized hospitals.

Fully committed to whole person care Legacy Health has integrated mental health and substance use practitioners throughout our system to provide for patients wherever they enter, including primary care, our hospitals and all our emergency departments. In addition, we have Project Nurture embedded in our Legacy Medical Group Midwifery Clinic and the Unity Center for Behavioral Health where we partner with three other health systems to deliver acute and emergency mental health services.

Legacy Health is strongly committed to "housing as health." We have long-standing experience in caring for people who are unhoused. We know a person cannot get well if they are not housed and they cannot stay housed if they are not well. This is a deep concern for people who are not housed and have mental health and/or substance use disorders. Securing housing for patients after they recover from an acute behavioral health crisis is an ongoing challenge because of the lack of available housing options. Affordable housing with specific stabilizing supports for those with mental health and substance use disorders is desperately needed as housing costs escalate in most Oregon communities.

We support the current request from NAMI Oregon seeking \$20 Million in Lottery Funds to incentivize the development of new housing for individuals living with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders. The Housing for Mental Health Fund has demonstrated success maximizing the impact and value-added to the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn Correia".

Kathryn Correia
President and Chief Executive Officer