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February 4, 2020

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Mental Health

From: Chris Siegner, Director Symmetry Care Inc., Harney County Oregon

Re: Support for passing SB 1552

Dear Chair Roblan, Vice Chair Boles and Members of the Committee,

First, I would like to thank Chair Roblan and Vice Chair Boles for taking the time to come to Harney County to really understand how our Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic operates and listening to both providers and consumers about their experiences. It meant a lot to our community and hopefully it illuminated just how life changing an integrated behavioral health system can be.

On behalf of Symmetry Care Inc. (SC), I am providing this letter and attached data report in support of the passage of SB 1552 which would continue funding for CCBHC clinics through the end of the 2019-21 biennium. As you are aware the CCBHC model has frankly been a "game changer" in terms of setting a standard of care for people who have for decades received health care in a piece meal manner with very inconsistent results. Truly integrated care brings a cohesiveness to a delivery system that has often been both fragmented, and lacked coordination with other healthcare providers. Oregon's participation in the CCBHC demonstration project has shown statewide that these clinics are viable across both urban and rural settings. Part of this effort was to show that by providing integrated services people would actually get better and the cost of their care would decrease. Attached is a data report from SC that addresses both improved outcomes and reduced costs. Please note that the cost reduction in fact comes from people being able to transition from Oregon State Hospital into lower cost community settings. This is a better result for the individual and a financial win for the State.

While you were visiting our community, I explained that there is no going back now that we have seen the benefits of this CCBHC model. As Directors and Administrators of our programs we all feel the sense of responsibility to continue what has been started in spite of uncertain financial support. SB 1552 helps to solidify funding for our programs and allows the ultimate aim of the project to be realized which is a far better behavioral health system at a lower cost. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Siegner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Siegner, LCSW, Director Symmetry Care Inc.