



**VOICES UNITED.
OPPORTUNITY REIMAGINED.**

March 2, 2021

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 5024: Investments to support children and youth behavioral health services and continue implementation of SB 1/SB 221 (2019)

Co- Chairs Lieber and Nosse, and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First for Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities. We continue to connect a community of 115 advocates, coalitions, and organizations through The Children's Agenda, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

Targeted investments to expand services for children and youth to continue the implementation of SB 1/SB 221 (2019) are part of the proposed OHA budget in HB 5024 and are on the [2021 Children's Agenda](#). Items include:

- Young Adult in Transition (YAT) Residential capacity building – \$5 Million
- Interdisciplinary Assessment Teams for youth with complex needs– \$5.7 Million
- Crisis and Transition Services – \$1.3 Million
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Services (PRTS) capacity building – \$7.5 Million

Thank you for your consideration and we ask you to support these investments to support behavioral health needs of children and youth.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement Director
Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

View the 2021 Children's Agenda at www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda

**The
Children's
Agenda**

is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.



P.O. Box 14694
Portland, OR 97293
503.236.9754

ourchildrenoregon.org