

SUZANNE BONAMICI
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON

2231 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: 202-225-0855
FAX: 202-225-9497

12725 SW MILLIKAN WAY, SUITE 220
BEAVERTON, OR 97005
TELEPHONE: 503-469-6010
TOLL FREE IN 1ST DISTRICT: 800-422-4003
FAX: 503-469-6018

<http://Bonamici.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3701

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May 7, 2021

Dear Chair Kafoury,

Thank you for your leadership and Multnomah County's work in developing the plans for the Behavioral Health Resource Center.

As we have discussed, thousands of people in Multnomah County and in the Metro region are facing housing instability and, increasingly, experiencing houselessness. Unfortunately many people experiencing houselessness in the County also report disabling conditions, including behavioral health issues such as mental illness and substance use disorders. In fact, the number of people experiencing houselessness who struggle with these conditions has continued to grow faster than the number of people experiencing houselessness overall. More services and facilities specifically serving this population are urgently needed.

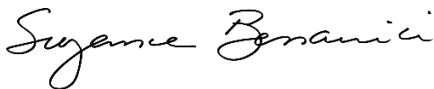
This Behavioral Health Resource Center Plaza will be an important component of the center and will be space for people receiving services to experience nature, community, safety, and rest.

The Behavioral Health Resource Center Plaza is one of 10 projects in NW Oregon that I have submitted to the House Committee on Appropriations for consideration for Community Project Funding. The Community Project Funding process allows me to advocate for specific community projects that will help the people and communities of Northwest Oregon. The process was very competitive, with more than 70 applications from the region.

In the coming weeks I will continue to advocate for this project as the Appropriations Committee considers Community Project Funding requests. We anticipate that the appropriations bills will be brought to the House floor in June or July.

I look forward to continuing to partner with you to help bring federal resources to NW Oregon to address the urgent needs our communities face.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress