



**Oregon
Family Support
Network**



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March 15, 2023

Joint Sub-Committee on Ways and Means, on Human Services – RE: SB 5525

Dear Co-Chairs Campos & Valderrama, and Subcommittee Members;

The Oregon Family Support Network is pleased to support the funding strategies addressing continued capacity building for Behavioral Health, specifically as it relates to children, youth and families. We all have heard many stories and experiences about how hard it is to get help in Oregon's Behavioral Health system, and we are also deeply grateful that the collective voices of families and youth are being heard.

The investments that have come out of the previous sessions (2021 and 2022) have begun to shine a light of hope for all Oregonians who experience serious mental or behavioral health challenges and their families. We say this has begun, recognizing that there is more work to be done.

We also applaud and are grateful that Governor Kotek has identified Mental Health as one of her top three priorities. The proposed funding for the upcoming biennium would continue to expand opportunities for treatment, help, support and begins to convey a more responsive healthcare system for Oregon citizens.

I would like to specifically note the Values that Guide Behavioral Health in Oregon as articulated by Behavioral Health Director Ebony Clarke, LCSW and repeat them here as being essential for the health & well-being of Oregonians:

- Community Centered/Community Partnerships
- Centered on Equity
- Whole Person Care
- Prevention
- Directed by People with Experience
- Recovery & Reintegration

If the State of Oregon, its elected and public officials, state agencies, and community-based organizations focused on funding and policy that relates to these values in the long-term, then there would be a strong potential to see these values result in improved outcomes across the age span, and among all Oregon populations – particularly for children youth and families across the state. That is a system that we would all look forward to working in.

OFSN, fully supports the proposed approaches in this OHA budget proposal. The values articulated in OHA's Behavioral Health presentation are what we think needs to shape the future of services in Oregon and nationally.

Sincerely,

Sandy Bumpus, Executive Director