



May 4, 2023

RE: Supporting HB 5030 Lottery Bond Revenues Capital Construction Request for Family Peace Center

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, and members of the Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

On behalf of CARES Northwest, the children's advocacy center serving Washington County, I write today in support of a \$6 million allocation to the Family Peace Center project from the FY23-25 Lottery Bond bill. The Family Peace Center will be an innovative single center for the intervention, prevention, and healing of child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault. FY23-25 Lottery Bond dollars will support the renovation of the new facility that will house many different partners to achieve this critical goal.

In 2018, Washington County founded the Family Justice Center – a co-located multi-disciplinary initiative to provide a single location for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Since that time, the need for services has grown, not only for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, but also for child abuse. For example, just over half of children receiving child abuse evaluation, therapy, and support services from CARES Northwest now come from Washington County; due to limited clinic space in our satellite clinic site in Beaverton, however, most of these children must receive their services in Portland, outside of their home community.

To address this, Washington County leaders and community members launched an initiative in 2020 to transform the current Family Justice Center into the Family Peace Center and, along with other new agencies, add the CARES Northwest child abuse evaluation and support program to its constellation of services.

Since that time, we have been working hard to realize our vision. In 2021, the Legislature recognized the importance of the Family Peace Center project by allocating \$6.25 million in Lottery Bonds and \$400,000 in ARPA funds for the pre-work and purchase of a facility.

We are requesting your support again - \$6 million in Lottery Bonds - to renovate and establish a state-of-the-art facility where survivors of all ages can receive the comprehensive care they deserve. By creating more clinical space for CARES Northwest, more Washington County children experiencing abuse will receive expert medical treatment, forensic evaluation, family support and therapy closer to home and their families will benefit from stronger working relationships with our domestic violence and sexual assault partners at the Family Justice Center. This model of collaboration and coordination of services across a broad spectrum of disciplines is the research-based best practice for truly breaking and ending the cycles of violence in our communities. The Family Peace Center of Washington County will be the first of its kind in Oregon.

Uniting all agencies in our community will strengthen our response to violence and abuse. Providing a second allocation of Lottery Bond Revenues in the 2023-2025 biennium will ensure we can complete our project and achieve our vision.

In closing, our team at CARES Northwest strongly encourages your support of \$6 million in Lottery Bond funding for the renovation for the new facility that will become the Family Peace Center, to not only promote the health and safety of children and families today but also to ensure the well-being of Washington County for future generations.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (503) 276-9000 or via email at jgilmor@lhs.org. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JGR', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jenny Gilmore-Robinson
Executive Director