

May 5, 2023

Delivered verbally

Good afternoon, Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and committee members.

My name is Jonathan Frochtzvajg; I'm the Public-Policy Manager for Cascade AIDS Project. I'm testifying today to ask you to support our request for capital-construction funding for a new location of our LGBTQ+ health center, Prism Health.

Established in 2017, Prism is a community health center providing primary and behavioral healthcare with a focus on the LGBTQ+ community. The clinic seeks to address the many health disparities that LGBTQ+ people experience, as well as the lack of culturally responsive healthcare available for them. Since Prism opened its doors, approximately 1,500 patients have established care at the health center. Transgender and non-binary people, in particular, have sought care at the clinic: About a third of our primary-care patients, and around two-thirds of our behavioral-healthcare patients, are trans or non-binary. As a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike, Prism serves all patients, regardless of ability to pay. Approximately half of our patient visits are from Oregon Health Plan members or people who do not have insurance.

Unfortunately, Prism simply does not have enough space to accept new patients. The wait list for the health center stretches into the hundreds. To address this issue, CAP is in the process of expanding Prism to a second location, in North Portland. Once the new location is operating at full capacity, we estimate it will be able to serve up to 3,000 additional patients. But to make this expansion a reality, we need support from the state. This funding would build on CAP's own investment in the project of over \$300,000, almost \$2.5 million in private investment, and \$200,000 from the City of Portland.

The Legislature's contribution would be not just a contribution to this project, but to our community's capacity for LGBTQ+ culturally specific healthcare—and to an Oregon where all LGBTQ+ people are healthy and thriving. We hope you will make this investment. Thank you.