



May 5, 2023

Co-Chair Fred Girod, Co-Chair Paul Holvey

Joint Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Capital Construction

RE: HB 5030, Support for Washington County Family Justice Center \$6m Lottery Bond Request

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

As legislators representing Washington County, we write to share our support for \$6 million in lottery bond funding for the Washington County Family Peace Center project. Strengthening our response to child and family trauma is critical to our community.

Some background: Since 1987, CARES Northwest has been serving Washington County children at their Northeast Portland location. In 2018, for the first time in 30 years, CARES Northwest served more Washington County children than Multnomah County children, and that trend has continued. In response, community leaders worked to bring CARES Northwest to Washington County in a location shared with the Family Justice Center. By co-locating those services, families who experience any type of violence within the home can receive the support they need at one location.

In 2021, the Legislature awarded the Family Justice Center of Washington County (FJCWC) \$6.25 million in lottery bond proceeds and CARES NW \$400,000 in ARPA funds in 2021 to go towards the purchase and construction of the new Family Peace Center of Washington County.

At that time, FJCWC had identified a county-owned building to purchase well below the market rate and had gone through architectural analysis to budget for the project. Unfortunately, that building fell through, and construction costs ballooned over the last two years. Today, the cost of building the Family Peace Center is more than double the cost of the project in 2021.

It is more important than ever to move forward and complete the Family Peace Center in Washington County. Low barrier coordinated services are desperately needed in our community. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, it is estimated that cases of domestic violence increased by 30%. In over half of domestic violence cases, there is also co-occurring child abuse. We support the vision for the Family Peace Center to incorporate all prevention, intervention, health and hope services that are necessary to end violence, abuse, and trauma in our community into a single location.



The Family Peace Center project follows a national model and will be the first co-located center for child abuse and domestic violence in Oregon. Co-locating services for both child abuse and domestic violence addresses an urgent need in Washington County.

We know that child abuse and domestic violence are widespread and cause long-lasting social and economic harm to our community. While this trauma impacts everyone, it often can have a disproportionate impact on those who are financially vulnerable or historically marginalized.

We request your support for \$6 million in additional lottery bond funds to complete the Washington County Family Peace Center project. This investment will not only to promote the health and safety of children and families today, but the well-being of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Aaron Woods-SD 13

Senator Wlinsvey Campos-SD 18

Senator Kate Lieber-SD 14

Representative Ken Helm-HD 27

Senator Janeen Sollman-SD 15

Representative Susan McLain-HD 29



Nathan Sosa

Representative Nathan Sosa-HD 30

Farrah Chaichi

Representative Farrah Chaichi-HD 35

Lisa Reynolds

Representative Lisa Reynolds-HD 34

Jules Walters

Representative Jules Walters-HD 37