

February 15, 2024

Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Support for HOPE Plaza

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Salem Health Hospitals and Clinics work closely with the Center for Hope and Safety (CHS) and we are pleased to offer a letter of support for their request for HOPE Plaza funding. By funding this project, you are ensuring that access to 20 units of safe housing is available for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking in our community. Employing approximately 6,000 staff, including over 700 practitioners representing 46 different specialties, Salem Health's mission is to improve the health and well-being of the people and communities we serve. As our region's premier health care provider, Salem Health operates hospital facilities in Salem and Dallas, and clinics spread through the Mid-Willamette Valley dedicated to serving patients across Marion, Polk, Benton, Linn, Lincoln and Yamhill counties.

Salem Health is vigilant in supporting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. We have specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) who support patients who present with forms of abuse, using gentle, kind and thorough forensic patient evaluation. When the patient is ready to seek safety, CHS responds to the emergency department with supportive services. CHS is an essential part of our team as we assist victims to find safety. In addition to patient care, we rely on CHS's knowledge, information, and data showing the regional aspects of domestic violence and related issues and CHS regularly provides training for our staff. They are a vital partner helping to strengthen family systems and enhance health and wellness of the community as a whole.

Center for Hope & Safety's work is more important than ever and we hope you will consider directing funds to the HOPE Plaza, which will bring vital safe housing options for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking victims. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Nester Wolfe, President and CEO