

Submitter: James Mitchell

On Behalf Of: Parrott Creek

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

Measure: HB5201

February 15, 2024

To: The Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

RE: Parrott Creek's Bright Futures Capital Project for Oregon Kids

I am writing to ask you to invest the final \$8M we need to finish a brand new, 40 bed, 28,000 square foot residential treatment campus for Oregon's most vulnerable kids. This is an exciting, sector-leading project that has already gained accolades and awards, is working with local and national experts in trauma-informed design, and helps answer the myriad of crises affecting thousands of children and teenagers in our state. Our project increases residential drug, alcohol and mental health treatment capacity, will help prevent Child Welfare placements in Temporary Lodging, assists youth to avoid incarceration, and addresses the intersection of these three critical areas of need with youth who end up homeless on our streets.

We have been planning this capital project for over a decade and we are proud to say that we broke ground with a community ceremony in October last year. Located in rural Clackamas County, our treatment campus is within 30 minutes of downtown Portland and serves both Metro and statewide populations.

While I know that it isn't your responsibility to fund every request you receive, we have purposefully incorporated into our project not just how to meet the needs Oregon's youth but also three other key priorities for the State's future: Net Zero environmental sustainability targets; a 30% Women & Minority Owned Business participation, and an indigenous "land back" focus for the stewardship of our 80 acre site. Combating climate change, creating jobs, and honoring the history and heritage of our tribal communities are as much priority needs in creating a healthy future for Oregon as is ensuring every child has the chance to flourish and succeed.

Our Bright Futures project is championed by Senators Meek and Bonham, Representatives Hartman and Diehl, and has bipartisan support as the attached letter clearly demonstrates.

For too long Oregon has treated its most vulnerable children like third class citizens. Our project makes sure they are nurtured, honored and respected as the leaders of tomorrow that they truly are. An \$8M investment today will ensure this vision is made possible ASAP. Oregon's youth cannot wait another day, let alone many more years, to get the services they truly need in appropriate infrastructure.

I look forward to working hand in hand with you to create a brighter future for all of Oregon's children.

Sincerely,  
James Mitchell  
Board Member Parrott Creek