



Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair  
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to voice my support for the funding of the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center. The project will bring 50 low-income housing units to the City of Woodburn, as well as wrap-around services for its residents and the surrounding community. These services will be delivered through the Integrated Service Delivery Model, which leverages community assets, reduces barriers to support, and supports residents in affordable housing units.

Both housing and services are critical for the greater Woodburn area:

- 13.7% of residents live in poverty.
- Per capita income in Woodburn is \$22,311, compared to \$35,393 statewide.
- Children under age 5 comprise 6.9% of the population, compared to 5.4% statewide.
- 57% of Woodburn's population identify as Hispanic, compared to 13.4% statewide.
- 54% of Woodburn residents speak a language other than English in their home, compared to 15% statewide.
- 70% of adults in Woodburn are high school graduates, compared to the 91% statewide.

Though the need in Woodburn is high, the opportunity to empower and transform lives is even higher; this is why I support the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center.

In staying true to our organization's mission to improve the health of the Marion-Polk community, Willamette Health Council steadfastly supports the growth and development of this initiative that positively impacts the wellbeing of the City of Woodburn and its citizens.

I respectfully request that you approve funding for the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center. It will empower the community and facilitate immense positive impact in our nonprofit community.

Sincerely,

Justin Hopkins  
Executive Director, Willamette Health Council