

Dear Members of the [Committee Name or Legislative Body],

I am writing to express my heartfelt support for allocating critical state funding to the Oregon State University Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine. As the Development and Facilities Coordinator at Forward Stride, I have witnessed firsthand the unparalleled dedication and expertise of OSU's veterinary team. Their work has directly impacted the health and well-being of our herd—horses and ponies that are not just animals but integral partners in delivering our life-changing services.

Forward Stride's mission is to empower individuals of all ages and abilities through equine-assisted services. Our equine partners are at the heart of everything we do, whether it is helping a child with special needs take their first steps, supporting a veteran coping with PTSD, or providing therapeutic services to individuals recovering from trauma. The health and vitality of these incredible animals are paramount to our ability to serve our community effectively.

When members of our herd have faced serious illness or injury, OSU's veterinary team has been there to provide exceptional care. Their expertise has saved lives and ensured that our equine partners can continue their vital work. Just as importantly, their compassion and professionalism have offered us peace of mind during challenging times. The ripple effects of their care extend far beyond the barn, touching the lives of every client who depends on our services.

Funding for the Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine is not merely an investment in veterinary education; it is an investment in the countless communities and individuals who benefit from their work. The college's ability to continue providing advanced care, conducting groundbreaking research, and training the next generation of veterinary professionals depends on adequate resources.

I urge you to recognize the vital role that OSU's veterinary college plays in supporting organizations like Forward Stride and the broader community. Please ensure that this critical institution receives the funding it needs to continue its essential, multifaceted work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Leanna Sugar
Development Coordinator & Facilities Coordinator
Forward Stride