

Co-Chairs Senator Campos, Representative Valderrama and Members of the Joint Committee on Human Services;

This is the time to review Oregon Health Authority's budget and how it expects to provide the services that keep Oregonians healthy and thriving. I need to call to your attention **POP 418**, which asks for additional funding for the department to fulfil the requirements of SB 1557- The Culture of Yes.

This package is a complete slap in the face to Oregon children and families living with Severe Emotional Disturbances, who have been waiting years for Oregon to fulfil its promise of home and community based care. Care that reduces hospitalizations, crisis, financial burdens, and death. Care that provides for better outcomes through skill building, safety implementation, and a sense of worth. Care that is matched an additional 6% by the federal government.

Oregon continues to spend millions of dollars and thousands of hours of discussion on how to fix the mental health crisis, homelessness, suicide rates, and poverty. Oregon continues to only focus on treatment, rather than prevention- by seeing a human only worth helping once they become an adult and a "burden to society".

OHA was appropriated a significant amount of money to begin implementation of SB 1557 last year, with nothing to show for it but some overly priced contracted reports- reports that echo what families have been saying for decades. It is time that OHA fully commits to fulfilling the promise it made to children and families in 2013, by prioritizing implementation and getting services in these homes.

The SB 1557 [June Progress Report](#) has "roll out" predicted for 2029- that feels a lot less "culture of yes" and a lot more "we don't care".

I urge you to demand more from OHA than a few additional FTE and funds to continue to think about maybe helping these children.

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