

Jessica Sollaccio
185 SW Alder Ave
Warrenton, OR 97146

Subject: Support for Omnibus Legislation

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for the Omnibus. I had planned to provide my testimony live during the hearing, but due to the overwhelming number of passionate voices sharing their stories, I was unable to speak. While I was disappointed not to testify in real time, I was also deeply moved by the sheer number of people advocating for this legislation. Their stories underscored the urgency and importance of this work. It was inspiring to witness so many individuals come together, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to listen and learn. Today, I add my voice in support.

I am a mother of two small children. I was fortunate to have access to a doula, yet I also struggled with postpartum anxiety and depression. At the time, I lacked the knowledge and tools to understand what was happening to me. Without the support of my doula and care team to help me navigate intrusive thoughts, rage, and fear, I do not know what could have happened. I share this because I know firsthand what is at risk if these bills do not move forward.

With a background in public health policy and healthcare, and now as a local elected official, I understand both the complexity of this issue and the tradeoffs you must consider in advancing this legislation. We have a choice. We can allocate resources to support the values we claim to hold, or we can continue down the path of ignoring experts, families, and women—compounding the toll this crisis is taking on our communities and society.

Throughout the hearing, I heard discussions of ROI. But I urge you to consider what cannot be measured in spreadsheets: the human value of fully funding these programs. How do we quantify the value of a mother who, through access to care, achieves sobriety and goes on to mentor others? What is the worth of a doula earning a living wage, no longer forced to juggle multiple jobs at the expense of their own family? How do we measure the ripple effect of strong, stable families in our communities?

Right now, these essential services are sustained by the unpaid or underpaid labor of community members across Oregon. The programs that do exist are often pieced together through inconsistent, short-term funding, creating uncertainty for both the providers and the families who rely on them. This instability not only undervalues the

work itself but also makes it impossible to build a sustainable system of care. It is time to move beyond temporary fixes and invest in long-term solutions that ensure this critical work is properly supported, funded, and valued.

I write this letter with hope—hope that it will not be ignored. Hope that we will see the investment and change our communities deserve. This legislation has the power to bridge the divide between what is and what ought to be. I urge you to act.

Thank you,

Jessica Sollaccio