



February 19, 2025

Dear Co-chairs Campos and Valderrama, members of the subcommittee on Human Services,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am a political coordinator at Oregon AFSCME. Our union represents over 39,000 workers across the state in both public and private sectors and we believe in economic and social justice for all Oregon workers and their families.

Oregon AFSCME supports the budget requests from the Oregon Health Authority as is for the Oregon State Hospital which includes funding to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both patients and the nursing staff. Oregon AFSCME represents both licensed registered nurses and the doctors who provide plans for treatment based on each individual's needs. Patients at the Oregon State Hospital deserve a care setting that provides hope, healing and recovery. But for too many years, understaffing and lack of recognition of the changing population at OSH has put both patients and workers at risk.

The request includes 136 mental health positions to reduce overtime for LPNs and RNs, increased forensic evaluation service positions, electronic monitoring of patient vital signs for enhanced care, increased security screening at OSH, and community navigators to help patients get the appropriate level of care when they leave OSH.

In numerous studies you can find the Oregon State Hospital to be the most dangerous place to work at, its the single workplace where an alarming number of worker compensation claims come from and yet workers continue to show up and care for patients with compassion and care. The recommendations from the outside consultant seek to bring safety to the State Hospital and we look forward to the improvements that will be made.

Respectfully,

Odalis Aguilar