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**March 27, 2025**

Chair Nosse,  
Vice-Chair Javadi,  
Vice-Chair Nelson,  
Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

**Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2059 (-2 Amendment)**

My name is Eva Williams, and I serve as the Executive Director of Willamette Family, an accredited non-profit organization specializing in substance use and co-occurring disorders. Willamette Family is also a member of the Oregon Council for Behavioral Health, the statewide association of behavioral health providers.

Oregon currently has a clear estimate of the number of residential substance use treatment beds needed to meet demand - data that can be viewed in real time on OHA's dashboard. Fewer than half of the needed beds have been developed, leaving a gap of 2,236 beds. Each residential bed can serve six to twelve individuals annually, which means thousands of Oregonians are unable to access care at the time they need it.

This shortfall in treatment capacity directly contributes to delays in accessing care, extended waitlists, and individuals returning to or continuing substance use while they wait. Some enter detox but find that no residential follow-up is available. Others receive services in lower levels of care that, on their own, are often insufficient. These scenarios frequently result in repeated service use without effective long-term recovery.

However, there are immediate solutions. Willamette Family is ready to help close this gap. We have a **shovel-ready project to develop 72 new substance use and co-occurring disorder treatment beds in Lane County**. Our cost per bed is 30% below the average capital cost, and the construction timeline is estimated at 24 months from the point of funding. While this is a significant investment, it will meaningfully expand Oregon's treatment capacity.

Thank you for your past investments and for your continued commitment to strengthening behavioral health services. I respectfully urge your support for House Bill 2059 (-2 Amendment) to help address Oregon's critical need for additional residential treatment capacity.

Sincerely,

Eva Williams, MA, CADCI, QMHPC  
Executive Director  
Willamette Family