

March 28, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Request for \$6 million match for Columbia Memorial Hospital's FEMA BRIC grant.

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez and members of the Committee,

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) have had a strong affiliation for the past 15 years (since 2010).

The collaboration has significantly enhanced healthcare access and quality for residents of the North Oregon Coast and Southwest Washington. It has also helped to support the growth of a critical access hospital that now provides a unique range of specialty care locally.

A cornerstone of this collaboration is the CMH-OHSU Knight Cancer Collaborative, which opened in 2017. This collaborative provides advanced oncology services, allowing patients to receive high-quality cancer care close to home. It saves patients significant driving times and costs related to travel. The collective patients receiving active cancer care with chemotherapy and radiation treatment save 80,000 miles and 1,600 hours of drive time per month.

OHSU partners with CMH to employ most of its medical staff. This has been beneficial in recruiting top talent, ensuring alignment in care delivery, and facilitating professional development for both inpatient and ambulatory patient care.

CMH's planned hospital expansion represents a critical step forward in strengthening the collaboration and addressing the community's healthcare needs.

The new facility will bring jobs, expand clinical services, provide additional space for students and residents to learn in a rural healthcare setting, and enhance the region's medical infrastructure, ensuring the continued growth of healthcare.

It will also serve as a designated refuge for residents of Clatsop County in the event of a major earthquake or tsunami, reinforcing the hospital's role as a vital anchor for regional disaster resilience.

OHSU fully supports CMH's efforts to secure the necessary funding to make this project a reality, ensuring a safer and healthier future for the communities we serve together.

Sincerely,

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