

Alex Antillon – DSCS (Direct Support Crisis Specialist James St. – Newberg, OR SACU – Stabilization and Crisis Unit

Good afternoon Co-chairs Campos and Valderrama, members of the committee on the subcommittee on Human Services,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to underscore the importance of ensuring that SACU operates at full capacity, and is appropriately right-sized to meet it's growing and critical needs. This is something we have consistently advocated for, and it remains a priority for us as we look to address the challenges at hand.

SACU's role as a crisis program cannot be overstated. It serves a vital function in responding to individuals in critical situations providing them with immediate and specialized care. In order to effectively address these needs, it is essential that SACU operates at 100% capacity, with the right mix of resources, personnel, and infrastructure. **Anything less compromises the ability to respond promptly and efficiently when crisis arises, which in turn puts vulnerable individuals at risk and strains other systems that are already under pressure.**

The demand for SACU's services continues to rise, and its capacity must match that demand. Right-sizing SACU is not just a matter of meeting current needs but preparing for the future challenges. If we continue to under-resource or underfund this program, we will only see delays in care, increased stress on staff, and ultimately worse outcomes for those who rely on this service.

As we have seen in the past, SACU's ability to provide timely and effective care hinges on its ability to remain fully operational and well-equipped. By ensuring that SACU is right-sized and at full capacity, we are investing in a program that can deliver the best possible care in the most critical circumstances on the highest levels.

I trust that you recognize the urgency of this issue and that we can count on your support in making SACU a priority in our ongoing discussions and planning. Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue. I look forward to working with you to ensure SACU is positioned to fulfill its vital mission.

Sincerely, Alex Antillon