



April 3, 2025

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

My name is Savan Meas and I am a DSCS at the Stabilization and Crisis Unit. I've been at SACU for 29 years, I started my job at Fairview and have continued my work in the agency, I have always liked this work.

I write today in opposition to the proposed budget for the Oregon Department of Human Services as presented with a decrease in funding and the transition from state operated homes to private providers in the second year of the biennium. SACU runs crisis homes, and private providers run long-term homes. Oregon cannot afford to lose any crisis beds.

It's important to me that SACU remains whole, our individuals will become homeless and end up in places where they will get offended or harm themselves. We are the crisis unit for these individuals and we have witnessed over time the failures in the private homes and how SACU is highly trained to keep them safe and the community safe please remove the cut of SACU let's keep us open 100%:

Staff know the individuals served, their needs, have the training necessary to care for them.

- Right sizing SACU is something we've been asking for. SACU needs to operate as a crisis program, which is why it's so important SACU stays at 100%.
- No placements in the community for folks already in SACU. If there were, they would already be moving into the community.

We urge this committee to carefully consider the impacts this has on the individuals served. Any funding cuts without a clear plan about how individuals will get served in other settings puts their lives at risk. As a direct care worker, this proposed budget is reckless and has lacked clear communication to all parties involved.

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