



April 3, 2025

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

My name is Austin Trent, and I am a DSCS/WOC Assistant Site Manager at the Stabilization and Crisis Unit. I've been at SACU for 2 years and I joined this field because I have a stepson with autism, and I realize how important providing the right care for individuals is.

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.

SACU supports individuals with a wide range of needs, from intellectual and developmental disabilities to mental health challenges and dual diagnoses. Our staff are highly trained to handle complex behaviors, provide stability, and ensure each person gets the care they need. **Because we serve such a diverse group, SACU is a critical safety net for those who might not get the right support anywhere else.**

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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