



April 3, 2025

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

My name is Alexika DeVoursney and I am a Direct Support Crisis Specialist at the Stabilization and Crisis Unit. I've been at SACU for 2 years, prior to SACU I worked in the private sector and the pay and benefits were very little so I applied with the state.

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.

As someone who worked in the private sector before, I know first hand that the private sector can't support many of these individuals their behavior is too extreme and there isn't enough staff to handle their behavior so injuries happen at a fast rate and police show up to help but are very skeptical do to there IDD needs and supports. SACU has less turn over and is highly trained. There is a COAT team to help support so we don't need to call police it's super important to keep SACU 100% open please reconsider your budget

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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