



March 29, 2025

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

My name is Lisa Ramos, and I am a DSCS at the Stabilization and Crisis Unit. I've been at SACU for 13 years and I joined this field because I wanted to help people and make a difference. 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 staff deeply understand the unique needs of the individuals we support. Because of our expertise and consistency, we help prevent incidents that could result in injuries or property damage within the community. **I have worked with individuals who have achieved incredible success because of the care they received at SACU.** One former resident is now a productive, married parent living their dream and contributing to society in meaningful ways. **Their journey demonstrates the transformative impact of SACU.**

Recently, another individual was asked what they would do if SACU closed today. Their response was both concerning and eye-opening—they said they would end up in a hotel, stop taking their medications, and they added, "I'd kick their ass" for letting that happen. I believe them wholeheartedly. This response underscores how critical SACU is to the safety and stability of the individuals we serve and the communities we live in. **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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