



April 11, 2025

Re: Support for University of Oregon Children's Behavioral Health Building Project

Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Nosse, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction,

I am writing to express the Portland Metro Chamber's strong support for the University of Oregon \$53.25m request to support the Children's Behavioral Health Building construction project. This project is the top ranked capital construction request on the Higher Education Coordinating Committees list.

The Portland Metro Chamber (The Chamber) is greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce and represents the largest, most diverse network of businesses in the region. The Chamber advocates for the health of our economy at all levels of government to support commerce, livability, community, and the region's overall prosperity. We represent more than 2,200 members, from 27 counties, 13 states and virtually every industry sector. More than 80% of our members are small businesses.

The Child Behavioral Health Building will help expand the state's capacity to deliver innovative, evidence-based care while preparing a new generation of highly skilled behavioral health professionals. This facility will serve as an innovation hub, advancing research that leads to practical solutions, and training professionals who can deliver care to Oregon's children and families where it is needed most. By combining education, service, and discovery under one roof, this project ensures that Oregon is investing in long-term strategies to support youth behavioral health.

The University of Oregon is asking the State of Oregon to contribute \$53.25 million toward this \$71-million, 54,000-gross-square-foot project, which includes the removal of four older buildings totaling 44,000 gross square feet. Located at UO Portland, this project will provide badly needed economic investment and construction jobs in the Portland area and is aligned with our support for increasing investment in mental health and addiction services.

For these reasons, we strongly urge your support for the University of Oregon Children's Behavioral Health Resource Center Capital request. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hoan, President & CEO

