



Associate Director of Secondary Programs
Secondary Programs

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Joint Ways and Means Committee Co-Chairs
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR, 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Leiber and Sanchez,

I am writing to strongly support the University of Oregon's request for state funding to build a Children's Behavioral Health Building in Portland. This facility is vital to addressing Oregon's growing behavioral health crisis among children and youth by expanding access to evidence-based care, training new providers, and fostering innovative research solutions that can benefit the entire state.

For 15 years, our district has partnered with the University of Oregon's Prevention Science Institute (PSI), whose grant-funded research projects have improved student behavior, attendance, and performance. The PSI's Family Check-Up intervention has been a particularly valuable resource, perfectly aligning with our district's family engagement philosophy and serving as an essential tool for supporting at-risk students and families.

Over the years, our partnership with PSI has showcased their dedication to developing practical, scalable solutions. For example, PSI's research team evolved the Family Check-Up model from an in-person intervention offered by UO clinicians to a more accessible format that school-based providers can deliver via an app, supplemented by telehealth support for families with greater needs. This innovation was achieved by PSI's responsiveness to our educators' feedback and their unwavering commitment to adapting the intervention for use in demanding school environments. PSI has even extended the reach of the telehealth version of this intervention, providing support to families in underserved rural areas across the state. Their efforts have not only directly benefited our district's students and families but also supported broader statewide impact—a true testament to the value of their work.

From my vantage point, having witnessed the development and success of these interventions, I deeply understand the critical importance of what the University of Oregon aims to achieve in Portland through the unification of the Prevention Science Institute and Ballmer Institute in the proposed Children's Behavioral Health Building. Oregon's youth desperately need greater access to high-quality behavioral health services. By approving funding for this facility, the state has the opportunity to improve access to care while simultaneously investing in a sustainable, long-term solution to

address the needs of children and families across the state. This facility is essential, and I strongly urge you to support this crucial initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'JC', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Jeremy Cohen, EdD.
Associate Director, Secondary Programs