



Alder Creek Middle School
13801 SE Webster Road
Milwaukie, Or 97267

Chris Silvas, Principal 503-353-5701
Brian Cates, Assistant Principal 503-353-5716
Karina Ehret, Assistant Principal 503-353-5703

April 22, 2025

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

Dear Co-Chairs Leiber and Sanchez,

I am reaching out to urge your support for funding the University of Oregon's proposed Child Behavioral Health Building for their campus in NE Portland. As someone who works closely with middle school students, I witness every day the profound challenges teens in our state face regarding behavioral health. This new facility represents a critical investment in Oregon's future, uniting direct care, cutting-edge research, and the training of mental health professionals—all in one centralized space. By supporting this project, the state can expand access to high-quality mental health care for children and teens and empower providers to help young people build healthier, brighter futures.

In my role at Alder Creek Middle School, I've had the privilege of partnering with the University of Oregon's Prevention Science Institute (PSI). Their involvement has made a measurable difference in our students' lives. Through research-based initiatives, they've helped improve student behavior, attendance, and academic engagement. They've also provided parent skills training and family therapy to families in need, as well as technical support and training for school staff, enabling us to implement proven interventions effectively. PSI's programs have enhanced our efforts to support students, and their team has consistently adapted their solutions to meet the unique needs of our school community.

The Child Behavioral Health Building is an essential step forward in addressing the growing demand for youth mental health services across Oregon. By uniting PSI and the Ballmer Institute under one roof, this facility would offer both immediate care and long-term solutions for children and families. I strongly urge you to prioritize funding for this vital project to ensure that Oregon's youth have access to the support they need to thrive.

Thank you for your attention and for considering this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Atkinson", written over the printed name.

Stephanie Atkinson
School Counselor
Alder Creek Middle School