



Wilbur D. Rowe Middle School
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Milwaukie, OR. 97222

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April 22, 2025
Joint Ways and Means Committee Co-Chairs
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Leiber and Sanchez,

I am writing to ask for your support in prioritizing funding for the University of Oregon's Child Behavioral Health Building in Portland. As a school social worker, I see firsthand the behavioral challenges faced by Oregon's youth. This facility would be a critical resource, bringing together direct services, research, and training for future providers in one place. By combining these efforts, the University of Oregon can improve access to mental health care and prepare skilled professionals to help children build healthier futures.

I've seen the success of this model through my work at Rowe Middle School. The University of Oregon's Prevention Science Institute (PSI) has been a reliable partner in supporting our students and families for the past 15 years. They've provided direct services to at-risk students and families, as well as training and support for school staff to use proven interventions, targeting attendance, behaviors, and grades. PSI's programs have been effective additions to our efforts to help students succeed academically and socially. Their team has consistently worked with us to find solutions tailored to the needs of our schools.

This proposed building is essential for addressing the growing demand for behavioral health services in Oregon. I strongly urge you to approve funding for this facility to support the health and well-being of our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Apelbaum", written in a cursive style.

Harry Apelbaum
School Social Worker
Rowe Middle School