

May 2, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways & Means  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse,

I am writing today in support of the University of Oregon's proposed Child Behavioral Health Building on their NE Portland campus. As a middle school principal, I witness every day the profound behavioral health challenges youth are facing. This new facility represents a critical investment in Oregon's future bringing together direct care, cutting-edge research, and the training of mental health professionals – all in one place.

At Tubman, we have partnered with the Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health for nearly two years to help support our school community and train bachelor's level child behavioral health specialists. Just since January, the Ballmer Institute has had contact with 238 of our students. A few highlights of our partnership include:

- Opening a wellness space for students
- Rolling out peace corners to support regulation in our classrooms
- Expanded mental health support for students in individual and small group meetings for skill-building offered by UO faculty and students
- Creation of a boys' self-regulation group

In addition to these direct student supports, the Ballmer Institute is also offering school-wide supports including:

- Professional development for school staff, focusing on trauma informed practices in schools and strategies to support regulation in the classroom.
- Free enrollment for our staff members into UO's graduate microcredential in child behavioral health

We are grateful for this partnership and believe that the creation of a new Children's Behavioral Health Building represents a critical investment in the well-being of our most vulnerable youth. It will be a transformative step in expanding access to healing, hope, and the comprehensive care young people need and deserve to thrive.

Sincerely,

Trevor Greer  
Principal  
Harriet Tubman Middle School