



Senator Girod, Representative Nosse, members of the Committee,

My name is Holly Harris and I am the Community Mental Health Director for Deschutes County. I am here today in support of Deschutes County's Capital Construction Request for \$3,081,813 million for a Child Psychiatric Facility for Central Oregon. This project is critical for our Region for many reasons. First and foremost, currently there is zero capacity for Child Psychiatric inpatient level of care in all of Central Oregon. The impact of this requires a child, who is experiencing severe emotional and psychological distress, to board in an Emergency Department for days, weeks and sometimes months, while we wait on an inpatient bed to become available in the metro area. Secondly, placing children outside of our region isolates them from their treatment providers and more importantly their families and social supports. It is sometimes impossible for families to make the trip over the mountain to participate in treatment, which makes treatment less successful and the transition back to their community even more challenging. This is unacceptable treatment for a child experiencing suicidal ideation, severe depression and/or psychosis as EDs are not equipped to support individuals with those needs for that amount of time and the additional suffering it causes the youth and family is unnecessary and detrimental.

After a decade of trying to solve this problem, Central Oregon is closer than we've ever been. Best Care Treatment Center, St. Charles Health System, Pacific Source, the Central Oregon Health Council, GOBHI and Deschutes County have all partnered with the Oregon Health Authority on the development of plans for a 15 bed sub-acute facility in Redmond. Should the Legislature choose to fund the rest of this project, we are poised and ready to begin the design and construction process to finally address this critical need. Without this funding, Central Oregon children will suffer. We strongly encourage you to support our request and provide equitable access to care for children in Central Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration,

Holly Harris, M.Ed., LPC  
Behavioral Health Director  
Deschutes County Health Services