March 28, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: City of Eugene supports Lane County Behavioral Health Stabilization Center Funding

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez:

On behalf of the City of Eugene, I write in support of Lane County's 25-27 Capital Project Funding request for the Lane County Behavioral Health Stabilization Center.

The Behavioral Health Stabilization Center is a critical initiative that will address urgent community needs. The facility will provide 24-hour urgent care for individuals experiencing acute-level behavioral health crises, with dedicated units for adult and youth behavioral health supervision, intensive substance abuse treatment, and post-acute care services. This comprehensive approach will reduce strain on emergency departments and offer life-changing support to adults and youth in need.

Additionally, Lane County has engaged in a private/public partnership with PeaceHealth to co-locate the Stabilization Center with their planned behavioral health unit, Timber Springs. Timber Springs Behavioral Health Hospital will feature a 96-bed inpatient unit providing comprehensive services for adolescent, adult, and geriatric patients, as well as intensive outpatient treatment. These co-located facilities will provide convenient access to individuals experiencing a behavioral health emergency.

The project has secured half of the necessary capital funds through Lane County funds, federal HRSA grants, and Oregon Lottery Bond allocations. An additional allocation from the state will allow the County to expedite the implementation of this critical public service, addressing the growing crises of homelessness, addiction, and mental health challenges.

Please give this request full and fair consideration, which will enable the Lane County Behavioral Health Stabilization Center to provide vital services to our community.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kaarin Knudson