



Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Steve Albert and I am the Executive Director of the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. The Mittleman Jewish Community Center (MJCC) has served Oregon since 1914. It is a community center for all Oregonians, with a majority of those walking through our doors not identifying as Jewish. The current facility in Southwest Portland has been occupied for decades and is in need of significant renovation. **A capital campaign is underway to secure funding for two projects: increased accessibility in our pool area and the expansion of child and daycare facilities.**

The MJCC has the only publicly-accessible warm therapy pool in Portland. Many elderly Oregonians with limited mobility, and young children, rely on the pool for rehabilitation, exercise, and other forms of therapy to address a range of medical issues. We partner with area organizations and hospitals to ensure that patients leaving their facilities visit the MJCC as part of their rehabilitation. The warm therapy pool is in need of significant maintenance to continue its operations, and the areas around it must be improved to ensure safety for all who use it.

The MJCC's main pool area must also be improved to meet growing demand for pool access in SW Portland. Space is limited at the only nearby outdoor pool, which is operated by Portland Parks at Ida B. Wells High School. It is massively overcrowded during the summer months. To ensure that our main pool is welcoming for all, we will create a new outdoor, ADA-accessible area. This will reduce overcrowding and provide more options for families looking to cool down on hot summer days.

Working parents need childcare during the day and when school is out. MJCC has several racquetball courts that are no longer used for those purposes. Converting these courts to allow for the provision of drop-in childcare and afterschool programs will help address unmet needs in the Portland community. The renovation will also provide a permanent indoor playground, which has been identified by many community members as a critical need, especially during the long, rainy, winter months. The MJCC is centrally located in SW Portland, and is accessible by TriMet, to allow for all community members with these needs to utilize such services.

We are conducting a capital campaign, and we've engaged private donors for this \$10 million project. Based on anticipated construction phasing, **MJCC is requesting \$5 million in lottery-backed bonds from the Legislature as the "last dollars in" to complete the project.** Receiving these funds will allow for renovations to our facility that will enable all families who walk through our doors to thrive.