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To the Co-chairs of the Ways and Means Committee and Capital
Construction Subcommittee,

I am writing to express my avid support for the proposed expansion of the Path Home Family Village Campus located in Southeast Portland. Path Home has an excellent track record as a service provider with Multnomah County and has proficiently executed contract services for Multnomah County for over 15 years. In the current fiscal year, the County has contracted for almost \$2.75 million in services with Path Home (both County General Funds and Metro SHS funds). I have personally toured Path Home's family village shelter and was inspired by the level of trauma informed, individualized, and family focused support Path Home provides to the families they serve.

The wrap-around services center model for which Path Home has requested legislative funding is exactly the services model that we need to support rehousing families and keeping them housed. Such a services center providing mental health care, childcare, recovery support, and employment training all in one place does not yet exist in our community. This service model will provide a tangible, one-stop shop solution for families who have otherwise had to navigate an incredibly fragmented system. Although Path Home has not requested funding for the housing component of its project, we are eager to see their affordable housing project succeed. While modest in scale, their project will fill an important niche for two- and three-bedroom family apartments that are scarce in the Portland supportive housing market.

With Oregon representing some of the highest rates of family homelessness in the country, I ask that you respond to the family homelessness crisis in our state with the urgency, support, and resources it deserves. I am confident that with your support, Path Home will be able to act swiftly in carrying out the next phases of their proposed expansion to provide the highest possible quality of services to the families who need it most. Thank you for your continued work and partnership in serving our communities across the state of Oregon. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you wish to discuss further the merits of Path Home's proposed family village expansion and the deeply needed gap it will fill in our community.

Dan Field



Director of the Joint Office of Homeless Services