



morrison
child & family services
administration

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March 25, 2025

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Javadi and Nelson,
and members of the committee,

My name is Margaret Scott, and I am the Chief Program Officer for Morrison Child and Family Services. Morrison is a non-profit organization, founded in 1947, that provides a wide range of behavioral health services to approximately 8,000 children and families throughout Oregon. Our organization is a member of the statewide association of behavioral health providers: Oregon Council for Behavioral Health. I am providing written testimony in support of House Bill 2059.

Morrison's statewide Parent Mentor program works with parents with substance use disorders and open child welfare cases. Our mentors use their own lived experience to help these parents engage in and navigate through substance use treatment and recovery with the goal of reuniting with their children. In all parts of the state, our Mentors report that they are working with parents who are ready for services and desperately want to engage in treatment, but treatment is not available due to limited capacity. This often results in hopelessness and continued substance use for the parents as well as elongated child welfare cases and on-going family instability. All of which also drives up costs of care and interventions across the system. For these reasons, we are in full support of BH 2059 and the comprehensive investments into the adult system.

While we understand that funds allocated under HB 2059 will be reserved for adult residential programs, we are also hopeful that there will be investments into residential capacity for youth that can treat both mental health and substance use disorders. Morrison currently operates a well-regarded residential program for victims of sex-trafficking ages 11-17. The youth in this program suffer from both mental health and substance use disorders and we are able to successfully treat both in our setting. With proper investments, we are confident that we can leverage our clinical knowledge and expertise and create a new program that will

increase the youth residential capacity and provide urgently needed mental health and substance use treatment in our state. We are also fortunate to have unused space in our residential building that could be remodeled and repurposed into either a secure or non-secure residential program.

In closing, we fully support House Bill 2059 and urge you to also lend your support to investments into residential care for the youth in our state. In the long run, early treatment leads to better outcomes for youth, adults, and families.

Sincerely,

Margaret Scott

Margaret Scott,
Chief Programs Officer
Morrison Child and Family Services