

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Melinda Avila, CEO of **OYEN Emotional Wellness Center**, a community-based organization dedicated to advancing healing, wellness, and collective care for Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color. Our work centers on trauma-informed, culturally rooted approaches that support individual well-being while strengthening the health of entire communities. I am also a long-time resident of Woodburn, and I have raised my family in this wonderful city.

On Behalf of Oyen, I am writing in strong support of **SB 1564**.

SB 1564 proposes a targeted and thoughtful action: the inclusion of a specific site into the City of Woodburn's urban growth boundary so that the City can move forward with planned development where housing is urgently needed. For the communities we serve, housing instability is one of the most persistent sources of stress, trauma, and health inequity. Without stable housing, access to wellness, healing, and preventative care becomes nearly impossible.

This bill is especially important because it supports the development of **both affordable housing for low-income Oregonians and market-rate housing**, increasing overall supply and helping stabilize the local housing market. Mixed-income development reduces displacement pressures and creates healthier, more integrated communities—conditions that are essential for long-term physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.

We are also encouraged that this site will include a **working farm, creating Woodburn's first agrihood**. The integration of housing, green space, and food production aligns directly with OYEN Emotional Wellness's mission. Access to fresh food, nature, and community-centered spaces supports healing, reduces chronic stress, and strengthens collective resilience. An agrihood model recognizes that wellness is not only clinical but also environmental, cultural, and communal.

SB 1564 reflects a holistic approach to growth—one that understands housing, food access, and community health as deeply interconnected. For the families and individuals we serve, this bill represents an opportunity to move from survival toward stability and healing.

We respectfully urge your support for SB 1564.

Sincerely,

Melinda Avila,
CEO and long-time resident of Woodburn

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