

Carol Young  
Portland  
LD 1606

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the potential closure of the group home where my son currently resides. As the parent of an individual living with a serious mental illness, I cannot overstate the importance of this facility—not only for my son's health and stability, but also for the broader community.

This group home provides him with consistent, specialized care, a structured routine, medication management, and, most importantly, a safe and supportive environment. These are essential components in helping him live with dignity and maintain a level of independence that would not be possible without this level of support.

Closure of this group home would not only disrupt his progress and well-being but could also place him at significant risk of hospitalization, homelessness, or involvement with the criminal justice system—outcomes that are traumatic for the individual and far more costly to public systems.

The staff at the group home understand his needs, triggers, and strengths. They are trained professionals who have earned his trust and helped him achieve a quality of life that we feared might never be possible. The idea of dismantling this support system is heartbreaking and dangerous.

I urge you to reconsider any plans for closure. Instead, I ask that you recognize the invaluable role this home plays in the lives of its residents and their families. Please prioritize the health, safety, and humanity of individuals like my son.

Sincerely,  
Carol Young