



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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May 29, 2024

Honorable June Robinson  
Honorable Lynda Wilson  
Senate Ways & Means Committee

Honorable Timm Ormsby  
Honorable Chris Corry  
House Appropriations Committee

Dear Senators Robinson and Wilson and Representatives Ormsby and Corry:

As you know, the new University of Washington Medical Center for Behavioral Health and Learning had its ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 15 and will begin caring for patients on July 1. This hospital is very important to Governor Inslee and his vision for transforming behavioral health care and access for all Washingtonians.

In the 2024 supplemental operating budget, the University of Washington received a one-time amount of \$20 million to support the opening of the behavioral health teaching facility for fiscal year 2025, in addition to federal funds appropriated in the Health Care Authority's budget.

To keep this facility operating at its full capacity and support the civil commitment capacity beds, an ongoing amount of \$20 million is needed. Without it, UW may have to operate at a loss or decrease the number of beds available to serve patients in need. This facility not only attends to some of our state's most vulnerable populations, but it also teaches and trains future behavioral health workers. The state is dedicated to serving civil commitment patients and building up the necessary workforce.

Thank you for your consideration. I want to reiterate the governor's commitment to provide funding to meet the needs of individuals in the state's care and the importance to the state of following through with funding for this new facility.

Sincerely,

David Schumacher  
Director

cc: Susan Howson, Staff Coordinator, Senate Ways & Means Committee  
Dave Johnson, Staff Coordinator, House Appropriations Committee  
Nona Snell, Budget Director, Office of Financial Management