



**FAMILY
RESOURCE
CENTER**
of Central Oregon

Strengthening Families through Parenting Education

April 12, 2013

Representative Jason Conger
District 54
900 Court St NE, H-477
Salem, Oregon 9730

Dear Representative Conger,

I submit this letter into Public Comment in opposition of HB2456-2 and any other bill that threatens the Oregon Charitable Deduction tax incentive. This bill will reduce the ability of my nonprofit to meet the community identified need for Parenting Education and Information and Referral Services.

I am the Executive Director of a small nonprofit. The Family Resource Center of Central Oregon delivers evidence based parent skills training to parents, caregivers, and grandparents through Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties. Last year we completed 24 different parenting series, 3,644 hours of parenting education, and 754 hours of family skills classes involving both parents and children. A total of 442 parents reported significant improvement in family management skills as measured by an Oregon State University assessment process. My organization also manages the Central Oregon 2-1-1 Information and Referral HUB, through a partnership with Deschutes United Way.

Approximately 45% of our FY 2012-2013 budget comes directly through charitable giving.

Parent Skills Training impacts every positive outcome Oregon has identified for their infants, children and youth. Parents gain skills to prevent child abuse and neglect, skills to increase literacy and school readiness, skills to help prevent their youth from substance abuse, skills to help their high school age children stay in school and enter the workforce.

Charitable giving is part of Oregon's and Central Oregon's heritage. Charitable donations allow local communities to support local programs that directly benefit the social, educational and economic well being of where residents live. Nonprofit services reduce the demand on public dollars.

We hope you join all opposition to limitations on charitable deductions.

Respectfully,

Vicki Ertle, Executive Director
Family Resource Center of Central Oregon

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