

April 3, 2019

HB 3183-1 Amendments

Vice Chair Sanchez, Vice Chair Noble and members of the committee

OWRC has long supported support and improvements in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program. We have had a representative participating in a committee to advise on a program in the implementation of the TANF program as envisioned in HB 2469 in the 2007 legislature in the past. We also participated in department work groups following the 2015 TANF reinvestment bills.

We agree that programs that provide housing stability, mental health services and options for help with one-time expenses that might result in returning to TANF are important elements for TANF participants.

We are grateful for the bi-partisan work done on this issue and commend those who participated.

We applaud the inclusion of the educational element of the -1 amendments and will look forward to the department providing advocates information on the statistics on this portion of the legislation. We assume the department will be administering the program to include the full definition of educational institution as defined by ORS 348.105. We would be pleased to participate in any department work group or administrative rule making process regarding this provision.

Again, we are pleased that the -1 includes the most critical elements for families facing issues of self-sufficiency: housing, mental health services and support for financial barriers to retaining employment.

Again, we look forward to working with the department in the implementation.

Marcia Kelley

OWRC