



TO: House Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA)
DATE: February 5, 2020
RE: Support for HB 4040– Relating to family treatment courts

Chair Sanchez, Vice Chairs Bynum and Sprenger, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is comprised of attorneys who represent people in adult criminal prosecutions and civil commitment proceedings, juveniles in delinquency proceedings, and juveniles and parents in dependency proceedings, as well as appeals throughout the state of Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit the following comments in **support of HB 4040**.

Family Treatment Courts (FTCs) are intended to enable parents whose substance use disorder have created safety concerns to receive treatment, counseling, accountability (through regular court appearances), and other essential supports so they can begin and sustain recovery. FTCs provide wrap-around care for parents on the road to recovery and children at risk due to substance abuse and addiction at home. The FTC model provides a meaningful alternative to the traditional case management in child welfare cases. By offering treatment, accountability, and supportive opportunities for safe reunification, these programs decrease the amount of time children are in foster care and reduce trauma to both parent and child.

Parents engaged in Family Treatment Courts will have all of the treatment providers associated with their case working together to holistically treat the challenges the families are facing through weekly case management meetings with all stakeholders present. The Family Treatment Court builds upon the best qualities of each piece of the system through a model founded upon communication, community effort, and creative problem-solving. Another important component of Family Treatment Courts is the frequency of case management meetings and check-ins with the judge overseeing the case. No longer will a family have to wait weeks or longer to voice a barrier they are facing because they will receive weekly, continuous support and feedback.

HB 4040 would prevent or reduce the duration of a child's placement in foster care due to a parent's untreated substance use disorder. Family Treatment Courts deliver measurable, positive results. Children are less likely to be placed in foster care, parents are more likely to be successful in treatment, and the promise of recovery is real. For the above outlined reasons, OCDLA strongly **supports HB 4040**. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mae Lee Browning, J.D.
Legislative Director, OCDLA