



February 13, 2020

Testimony in Support of House Bill 4104

Help Oregonians Run Act

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Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee -

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4104. Family Forward's mission is to build political and economic power for mothers and other caregivers. HB 4104 will break down one of the barriers that many people face when campaigning for an elected position, especially women who perform the majority of caregiving responsibilities.

Our form of representative government depends on electing people who represent members of their community and share the challenges that their community members face. However, current campaign finance laws do not allow expenditures for the cost of child and dependent care which disproportionately affect mothers and other caregivers' ability to run for an elected position. When we break down barriers to participation in representative democracy, we see more diverse voices shaping public policy and better laws that benefit our whole community.

Running for office is a big time commitment and often restricts candidates from their traditional sources of income. That can be a large deterrent for someone with caregiving responsibilities to becoming a candidate for an elected position. HB 4104 will address this barrier and help more mothers and caregivers run for elected office.

Running for elected office is not easy; it is especially difficult if you have no ability to pay for the child or dependent care you need to participate as a candidate. In order to create a body of elected officials truly representative of our community, we must pass HB 4104 and allow campaign funds to cover the costs necessary for mothers and other caregivers to participate in our representative government. Let's join Utah, Minnesota, and Colorado to allow campaign expenditures for child and dependent care needed during election-related activities.