

February 1, 2020

House Committee on Judiciary  
900 Court St NE  
Salem OR 97301

**Re: Testimony in support of HB 4131: Funding of the Family Preservation Project**

Dear Chair Sanchez, Vice Chair Sprenger, Vice Chair Bynum and distinguished members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

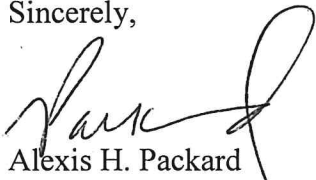
Please let this testimony serve as my documentation for my strong support of **HB 4131**. This bill will create much needed long term funding for the Family Preservation Project (FPP), a one of a kind, effective program providing tools, supports and the removal of barriers to allow incarcerated mothers to maintain and strengthen their connection with their children while serving time at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

I am currently pursuing a Masters of Social Work graduate degree and had the opportunity to do a clinical internship with the Family Preservation Project for over eight months this past year. During this time, I experienced firsthand, the programs efficacy in supporting, strengthening and growing hundreds of women's abilities and identities as mothers, resulting in a deeper involvement in their children's lives. Over the course of my internship I had the opportunity to witness the effectiveness of the interventions used by the Family Preservation Project to foster this change. From psycho-educational groups about parenting to attending parent-teacher conferences or children's counseling appoints via phone to intensive planning for reentry and reunification with their children to simply being able to talk by phone to their kids weekly.

A graduate of the Family Preservation Project recently told me: "*One of my biggest turning points was when it sunk in that my children were learning from watching me and understanding that my ability to love my children could only match my how much I loved myself.*" To me, this speaks directly to what the Family Preservation Project offers incarcerated mothers and their children throughout the state: An opportunity to not only strengthen the mother-child bond but to encourage, give space and support to the incarcerated mother to heal in mind, body and spirit.

I respectfully ask that you vote HB 4131 out of your committee favorably and as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your consideration and thank you for your service to the people of Oregon. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this testimony or legislation.

Sincerely,



Alexis H. Packard  
4407 SE Tibbetts St, Unit A  
Portland OR 97206

[alexis.packard@gmail.com](mailto:alexis.packard@gmail.com)

916.730.9300