



February 5, 2020

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

Children First works with our 120 partner organizations to develop the Children's Agenda. We identify and elevate legislative concepts that will support the needs of Oregon's children - our children - so that all of our children have opportunities to reach their full potential.

HB 4131 is a priority issue on the 2020 Children's Agenda. We hope that you and your colleagues will agree with us that this is unfinished business from 2019, and support this investment.

The Family Preservation Project works with mothers at Coffee Creek, helping those mothers take ownership of their lives, thereby changing the lives of their children, reducing trauma and providing support they do not receive anywhere else.

Over 68,000 children in Oregon have had an incarcerated parent in their lifetime and 80% of women who are incarcerated are mothers. Family Preservation Project helps maintain family relationships, providing some level of stability for these children and families.

We ask for your support for HB 4131, and together we hope we can get it across the finish line and funded this session.

Sincerely,

Chris Coughlin
Legislative Director

Our Children Oregon

Bringing Together Children First for Oregon and the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon

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