

February 5, 2020

Rep. Tawna Sanchez, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Oregon Legislature

My name is Maura Olsson. I'm the mother of three children, two of them being young boys when I was incarcerated ages nine and 11. It would've been substantially less traumatic for my children during my incarceration to have the support of people who understood the trauma of being separated from your parent.

Oregon is a mother state, in which it stands to promote the strength of mothers caring, healing and processing with their children establishing a family unit that is unbreakable.

The Family Preservation Project brings hope, connection, and a deep sense of purpose for a meaningful life with the ones you love during and after incarceration.

At our cores, no mother ever wants to be separated from their child, no matter the life choices the mother may have made. The Family Preservation Project gives mothers the chance to be continuously be in the lives of their children building relationship and learning parenting skills to build strong character, life skills to change lives, and the chance to love their children without ceasing.

The Family Preservation Project shows children they are important, that they are cared for and, most of all, they are wanted even in the most damaging, traumatic, hurtful circumstance of being separated from their mother.

If there's anything that will keep a woman from going back and re-offending it's the love of her children and being able to love her children, have a relationship with her children, and see hope in a life that she can live with her children.

The Family Preservation Project brings these things to women that may not know how to be mothers, it gives hope to women who have lost their way, have lost their children and have lost their lives. It shows their children they don't have to make the same choices, and it shows the mothers that they can make different choices and teach their children better ways and not have to reoffend for lack of help of disconnect from their children.

It would be a disservice by the state to take away the connection from the mother and the child and the child and the mother and the recovery of the mother and most importantly the recovery of the child.

The Family Preservation Project shows both mother and child they are wanted, important enough to spend time teaching, valued as human beings and the relationship with each other.

Without the Family Preservation Project, there would be a devastating number of mothers and children who would lack hope to move forward in a life of health and recovery.

This project is inspired by women to keep families together, to keep children and our new generations coming up in a brighter hope for the future that is established in a connection, unity, and healthy relationship. The members of society should see that FPP creates great members of society, and healthy family unit.

Please help save the Family Preservation Project. Thank you for taking the time to hear my voice.

Sincerely,  
Maura Olsson