

# YWCA IS ON A MISSION

February 5, 2020

Tawna Sanchez, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

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

First, thank you to many of you for your past visits with women from the Family Preservation Project - they truly appreciate the opportunity to speak with you about their experiences and share with you their passion for the work!

We are writing to you in support of HB 4131, which defines and funds the Family Preservation Project:

- The Family Preservation Project, originally a small, intensive program, now encompasses multiple tiers of service for women on the minimum side of Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.
- The \$650,000 will be allocated to the Criminal Justice Commission to then be allocated to the YWCA of Greater Portland to administer the program. The YWCA has administered the work since 2015, though the program has been in existence in one form or another since the early 2000's.

Why is funding the Family Preservation Project imperative for the children of Oregon?

- 84% of incarcerated mothers had at least 1 child living with them before incarceration and are more likely than men to serve as the custodial parent of their children.
- Children of incarcerated mothers are 2.5 times more likely to also become incarcerated in their lifetime than if their father is incarcerated. They are also at much greater risk of dropping out of school and academic challenges.
- Having a parent in prison can have an impact on a child's mental health, social behavior, and educational prospects.
- Over half of incarcerated mothers do not see their children during their incarceration.
- Research shows that for incarcerated mothers, family connections are the best indicator of successful re-entry.

Please support HB 4131. Thank you!

Sincerely ,



Susan Stoltenberg  
CEO, YWCA of Greater Portland

eliminating  
empowering  
**ywca**

of greater portland

PO Box 4587 | Portland, OR | 97208 | 503.294.7400 | [ywcapdx.org](http://ywcapdx.org)