

# Amy Nash-Kille, PhD

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February 3, 2021

The Honorable Janelle Bynum, Chair  
The Honorable Ron Noble, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Karin Power, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

## **Re: Support for HB 2912 – Reauthorizing Re\*Membering**

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of HB 2912. I am an advisory board member for the Women's Justice Project at the Oregon Justice Resource Center, and in my professional life I lead the Research and Evaluation team at KinderCare Education. I am responsible for tracking developmental child outcomes for thousands of children nationwide. In my previous doctoral work, I studied neurological development in infants and children. A consistent theme in my own research and a much wider body of literature is that children have better outcomes when their parents are supported, especially their mothers.

There is a great need for civil legal services for incarcerated women. Most inmates do transition back into the community. Many of the challenges that inmates face upon re-entry are civil legal issues that have been exacerbated by going unaddressed during incarceration. The legal supports that would be provided through HB 2912 offer stability to families in ways that cannot be attained through other interventions. Legal assistance to resolve child custody and visitation agreements benefits children and their parents by creating predictability and routine and forms a basis for positive and healthy parent-child relationships. The resolution of other civil matters also reduces stress in caregivers, reduces the burden to their family members, and reduces the burden to the larger community when these issues spiral out of control and become more difficult and costly to address later on.

Since the original funding of the program, Re\*Membering has served incarcerated women despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. During the first three months of Re\*Membering, the program received over 200 requests for services. Nearly 60 women have been assisted, the majority of whom identify as BIPOC, and many with multiple legal matters that have required attention. The positive impact of the Re\*Membering program will only increase over time as the pandemic resolves.

I urge you to pass HB 2912 and continue to support this important work. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



**Dr. Amy Nash-Kille**