

March 29, 2021

Chair Frederick, Chair McLain, and Members of the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee On Education

My name is Marylyn Smith and I live in Clatsop County. I am writing you today to ask that the Oregon Legislature increase funding for the Healthy Families Oregon for the 2021-23 biennium. I am a parent receiving/who received services through NW OR Healthy Families. HFO has helped my family so much by giving me my power to become a parent. I have struggled to overcome my childhood past and adapting to be a parent. I didn't know how to care for my child or understand what it meant to take care of my baby. Healthy Families has help me grow, understand and be here today with solid footing/understanding of what the meaning of parenthood is.

Healthy Families and my Home Visitor helped me connect with community resources that I didn't know even was there. The made think of what I wanted and what parenthood meant me to me. Without this program I wouldn't be the parent I am today.

By increasing funding to HFO by \$10 million you will help other parents, just like me.

Thank you.

Marylyn Smith
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