

Chair Lew Frederick, Chair Susan McLain  
Members of the Joint Interim on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Chair Frederick, Chair McLain, and members of the Committee:

My name is Machel Ramirez and I am the supervisor for Healthy Families Oregon for Klamath and Lake Counties. I am writing you today to ask the Oregon Legislature to maintain full funding for Healthy Families Oregon. Each year we support over 50 families.

This program is very critical for the well- being of our families because...

We support families during pregnancy and after delivery to make sure both baby and parents are supported and well. Social and emotional issues left unaddressed at this stage, become bigger and more expensive later on. We also provide evidence-based supports, which is needed by vulnerable young families in the Klamath Basin due to our community being at high risk, which is due to a lack of job opportunities, poor housing, and also a high rate in drugs and crime.

Also as a supervisor I feel that funding is very important for our program. Since we are a home visiting program and we are below average in wages it makes it difficult to keep staff from turnovers when other Early Childhood programs are receiving more funding. Funding is essential to provide the families that live in our community.

Thank you for your time.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Machel Ramirez

Healthy Families Oregon Supervisor Klamath and Lake

3815 S 6<sup>th</sup> Street Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603

[Machel.ramirez@ucancap.org](mailto:Machel.ramirez@ucancap.org)

CC: Joint Ways & Means Chairs Betsy Johnson, Elizabeth Steiner Hayward,  
and Dan Rayfield  
Governor Kate Brown  
Senate President Peter Courtney  
House Speaker Tina Kotek  
Senate Minority Leader Fred Girod  
House Minority Leader Christine Drazan  
Senior Senator Ron Wyden

Junior Senator Jeff Merkley  
Congressman Peter DeFazio  
Congressman Greg Walden