

Dear Chair Frederick, Chair McLain, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Judi Mahoney. I work with UCAN's Healthy Families program in Douglas County, and I am writing you today to ask the Oregon Legislature to maintain full funding for Healthy Families Oregon.

Healthy Families works with high-risk families in the community, who need extra support and information to guide and assist them during the often-challenging role of parenting.

I am a Supervisor and a Family Support Specialist. We serve over 50 families every year, navigating the challenges every new parent experiences, and sharing the joys that come with being a parent. We always have families we have to turn away, due to budget constraints.

This program is critical to the well-being of our families. We provide essential supports, especially now during COVID-19, helping to navigate resources, addressing basic needs, helping families suffering from mental health issues seek professional care, etc. We also connect our families to other services such as WIC, SNAP, rental assistance, educational options such as obtaining their GED, or other professional certificate, etc.

Healthy Families is the only evidence-based, strengths-based child-serving program in Oregon that directly addresses child abuse and neglect.

Thank you for your work to ensure this prevention program receives full funding. We are counting on you and other government representatives to be the voice for these high-risk families. The pay-offs are economic, will strengthen our communities, and have far-reaching benefits for generations of children and their families.

Sincerely,

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"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."
— Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa

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