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Testimony of Arthur Towers

OTLA Political Director

House Bill 4121

Before the House Committee on Judiciary

February 2, 2022

Are TAN-F Families Getting Less Justice Than Other Oregonians?

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 4121, which establishes a special process for certain child support disputes involving families on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

A number of our members are lawyers who help families navigate the tremendously challenging issues surrounding child support.

In general, the bill makes good sense, but we are extremely concerned about the 10-day deadline to request a re-hearing as described in Section 4(a) [page 1, line 24]. Similarly situated families who are not on TAN-F would have 30 days to file an appeal in a court of law.

We are in discussions with proponents about the details of this proposal, but we are concerned about diminishing the rights of TAN-F families in relation to other Oregonians. We would urge the committee to extend the timeline to request a re-hearing.

We will certainly report back to the committee how our conversations go, but we wanted to get our concerns on the record in a timely fashion.