



About Senate Bill 186

When a parent receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) through the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), they assign their right to receive any child support to the State of Oregon. Currently, if child support is collected by the Oregon Child Support Program in the month it's due, the family can receive up to \$50 for each child, not to exceed \$200 per family, of that collection. These are called "pass-through" payments. Senate Bill 186 amends ORS 25.020 to remove that limit and pass through all current child support collections to families who are receiving TANF when that support is collected in the month it's due.

This bill also amends ORS 412.007, requiring ODHS to "disregard" child support as income for purposes of determining whether a family is eligible to receive TANF. Currently, ODHS may only disregard \$50 of the amount of child support received for each child per month, up to a total of \$200.

This legislation is an important policy advancement for the Oregon Child Support Program and for the ODHS TANF program. It will bring more support to low-income families to cover essentials like children's food, clothes, and school supplies. Research supports this approach as more effective at lifting families out of poverty and toward self-sufficiency than the current approach. It also has the potential to strengthen family relationships and increase the number of parents who pay their support on time when the parent knows the child support is going directly to their children—not the government.

Goals of Legislation

- ✓ Put more support directly in the hands of low-income Oregonians and more money into our local economy.
- ✓ Strengthen families, increase the frequency and amount of timely child support payments, and increase financial stability for Oregon's poorest children.

Who Are We Helping?



Changes in Child Support

Nationally, child support programs have shifted from cost recovery toward family support over the last two decades.

And while child support collections have tripled nationally, TANF spending has cut in half.



National Child Support Collections



National TANF Spending



Impacts in Oregon

\$8 million per year

Based on historical collections, passage of this legislation could bring an additional \$8 million per year to Oregon's most vulnerable children.



What Are Other States Doing?

- » **Minnesota** (2001), **Colorado** (2017), and **Michigan** (2023) have enacted legislation to pass through all current support collections to families who are receiving TANF.
- » **Washington** is currently exploring legislation to pass through all current support collections, as well as assigned child support arrears in some circumstances. **California** may begin passing through all current support and arrears by 2025.
- » The National Child Support Enforcement Association is lobbying to end TANF recovery nationwide so that child support programs can focus on supporting families toward long-term self-sufficiency.