



2/28/23

Dear Chairs Frederick & McLain & Members of the Joint Ways & Means Education Sub Committee,

My name is Chelsea Campbell-Martin. I am one of the supervisors with the Healthy Families Oregon (HFO) team of Multnomah county.

HFO is a voluntary statewide accredited home visiting program that serves families prenatally to age 3. HFO started in 1992 and has been serving families for over 30 years.

Despite the proven success of our program, both in reducing child abuse and in reducing dollars spent on other social services (every dollar invested in HFO yields a return of \$1.46 and for families involved in child welfare the return increases to \$3.16) we continue to experience hardships due to underfunding.

Our program is highly desired and sought after by your constituents, yet due to our lack of funding we serve less than 20 percent of qualifying families who are requesting services.

Oregon families deserve access to our high-quality services. Parents who have participated in the program report a significant reduction in stress, are more likely to have their child(ren) connected to a primary care provider, have greater success accessing and navigating social supports, report an increase in positive parent-child interactions, among many many other benefits.

An increase of \$15 million in the DELC budget for Healthy Families Oregon will result in the following:

- a. Purchase of a database system (\$800,000) as required for program integrity and accreditation. I have been with the program for over 7 years and we have been operating on spreadsheets and paper the entire time (🤖 right?!), which is incredibly inefficient and ultimately unsupportive of our staff and families.
- b. Increase salaries to levels that are in line with other early learning programs which will provide stability and greatly improve staff retention. Our staff deserve to feel like they can meet their basic needs on their income!
- c. Increase present HFO state staffing by at least 4 new positions, which will allow us to come closer to the levels of support needed for a program of this size (it's huge, because it works, and Oregon families need and want it).
- d. Provide funding for HGO to open in Lincoln County.

This is your time to show Oregon families that you care about their well-being. You have an opportunity to fund HFO and give us the chance to meet the needs of the most over-burdened families in the state. Thank you for choosing to support Healthy Families Oregon and the wonderful staff and families that will feel the impact of your decision.

For more information about our amazing program you can visit: <https://oregonearlylearning.com/healthy-families-oregon>. I am also happy to talk more about the program as well. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you!



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