

Submitter: Sunday Kamppi

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5013

Joint Ways & Means Education Sub Committee

Testimony – HB 5013

March 2, 2023

Good morning, Chairs Fredrick and McLane and members of the Joint Ways & Means Education Sub Committee. For the record, my name is Sunday Kamppi.

I am the Program Manager for NW OR Healthy Families Oregon, serving Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties.

Healthy Families Oregon is a voluntary statewide accredited home visiting program for families pre-natal to age 3, Healthy Families Oregon has been serving families for over 30 years starting in 1992.

NW Healthy Families region has one of the state's highest child abuse and neglect rates in the State of Oregon. The program strives to build healthy relationships with increasing bonding and attachment with parents and children.

Due to the nature of this position, there is a high turnover rate with increase stress (50% turnover rate in 2022) in all positions. An Increase above the GRB is still needed for pay parity and equity. Present salaries with in the GRB still puts the program below what other early childhood programs are at and is even below the level of other similar jobs. At a minimum, HFO staff still need an additional \$10M to obtain pay parity.

Yet, our program serves less than 20 percent of those families qualifying for and requesting services.

It is an exciting time for Oregon. It is not often that a new agency is created in a state. Now, at the start-up of the agency is when the right size investments should be made for its success and for the success of Oregon's families. While we support the investments the Governor has made in her budget for the new Department of Early Learning and Care, there are still investments that need to be made over and above the GRB.

1. We respectfully ask for a \$15M increase in the DELC budget for Healthy Families Oregon to:
  - a. Increase salaries to a level that is in line with other early learning programs

and provides stability in retention of staff. (\$2.3M pay parity left out of the GRB from 2023 increase, \$10M for additional pay increases)

- b. Purchase a database system (\$800,000) as required for program integrity and accreditation.
- c. Increase present HFO state staffing by at least 4 new positions (\$1M) to come closer to the levels needed for a program of this size and.
- d. Provide funding for HFO to open in Lincoln County (\$1.2M).

Now is the time for the leaders of this state to rise to this moment and fund the agency, supply the tools and staff, and to fund the DELC programs at the levels necessary to serve those most at need in our state. By funding early childhood programs, families will thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.