



Oregon Women's Rights Coalition

SB 186 TANF Child Support Payment Increase-**Support**

Chair Gelser-Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and members of the committee:

The Oregon Women's Rights Coalition has been following support for families through the state system since our inception in 1973. We continue to advocate for improvements supporting families as they struggle for self-sufficiency.

We support the proposal to forward payments for child support to TANF0 recipients without limitation. This should improve the stability of those families for whom child support has been established. No longer will the limitation of \$50 per child or \$200 for a family from child support payments occur.

The greater issue, however, is the cash amount paid to TANF families in the program. For a **family of three the cash amount is \$506**, not even 25% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Last year, OWRC, was excited to see a Policy Option Package offered by ODHS to increase the monthly cash allowance to 50% of the Federal Poverty Level which would provide a family of three with \$1036. The POP did not make it into the Governor's budget.

At a time when the state will be sending back \$3.9 billion back to taxpayers because of the "Kicker", these families will continue to struggle. Children who do not have stable homes often struggle in school. Those children are the future of Oregon. We should do better.

A reminder. Below is the ORS citation discussing standards the state should meet.

ORS 411.070 (2) (a)

Take into consideration all basic requirements for a standard of living compatible with decency and health, including food, shelter, clothing, fuel, public utilities, telecommunications service, medical care and other essential items and, upon the basis of investigations of the facts, shall provide budgetary guides for determining minimum costs of meeting such requirements.

Please support this bill for the families for which it applies. Remember, however, we need to do better for the other families in the TANF program.

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