



March 14, 2023

TO: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
FROM: Our Children Oregon, The Children's Agenda
RE: Support for SB 5525, Nurse-Family Partnership Funding

Dear Co-Chair Campos, Co-Chair Valderrama, and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon (OCO) is a statewide organization that advances equitable policies, data and research, and whole-child advocacy. The Children's Agenda, convened by OCO, brings together ~127 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to improving the well-being of Oregon's children, youth, and families. Our collective created a 2023 legislative agenda that focuses on community-driven solutions to provide access and opportunities for all children and families. **We write in support of SB 5525, specifically to appropriate \$8 million to provide the non-federal match funding for Nurse-Family Partnership programs (NFP) required by Medicaid.**

NFP is an evidence-based, community health program with over 40 years of evidence that shows significant improvements in the health and lives of first-time parents and their children, especially those living in poverty. NFP has served over 6,500 families in 9 counties across Oregon, covering rural, urban, and frontier areas. NFP reports that 89% of babies were born full term, 96% of mothers initiated breastfeeding, and 91% of babies received all immunization by 24 months. NFP also improves the economic sufficiency of families by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, reporting 50% of clients were employed by 24 months. First-time parents, babies, families, and communities all benefit. However, NFP services are not provided in every part of Oregon.

NFP programs in Oregon rely on Medicaid funding to pay for their services to families, but Medicaid requires non-federal match funding. This is currently being paid for by county health departments. Many counties cannot pay the match required and are unable to offer NFP services to Oregon families. This creates inequitable access to critical services and beneficial outcomes. The use of state funds would allow more Oregon families to receive the proven benefits of NFP services.

Investments in young children are a win for every Oregonian. They support early brain development, health, and well-being of children, families, and communities, as well as

strengthen our economy. We urge the appropriation of \$8 million from the General Fund to provide the non-federal Medicaid match for NFP programs. This will allow NFP programs in Oregon more certainty to provide services and would help NFP continue expanding to counties that do not have programs.

We thank you for your time and your efforts to improve child well-being across the state, and we urge your support for SB 5525 and the funding ask for Nurse-Family Partnership.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

Ivy Major-McDowall, Policy and Advocacy Director

Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

View the 2023 Children's Agenda at www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2023-childrens-agenda