



Family Nurturing Center

SERVING SOUTHERN OREGON

March 23, 2023

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Morgan and Nguyen, members of the House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business,

My name is Brendon Kinzel and I am the Parent Program Manager for the Family Nurturing Center (FNC) in Jackson and Josephine Counties. I am writing to submit testimony on behalf of the Family Nurturing Center regarding HB 3431. FNC's testimony is neutral because, while we support ongoing funding of the Economic Equity Investment Program, utilizing Measure 110 as the Program's source of revenue would negatively impact our work and the lives of parents in recovery who we're supporting every day.

Our work at the Family Nurturing Center is about helping the whole family to become healthy. We work to dispel the myth that families have to figure it out on their own. We nurture and provide support to caregivers, modeling effective behavior that gives them a roadmap for their future. Our program works, and there is a tremendous need for the services we provide. Measure 110 allows us to sustain and expand these services. Following years of poverty, substance use, being in prison and other traumas, people don't always know how to transition back into society, especially after spending time institutionalized within the department of corrections. Coming out can be very overwhelming. FNC is also one of the only local community organizations that offers permanent housing. We served more than 2,400 families last year.

Measure 110 funding has enabled us to expand our reach, hire more parent mentors, and ultimately serve more families. Now, rather than being put on a wait list, when someone calls our office they are immediately moved through a screening process and assigned to one of our peer mentors. Before Measure 110, our organization could only help families with active child welfare cases. Now, thanks to Measure 110, we can offer services to families further upstream, before DHS ever gets involved. Measure 110 has helped us to eliminate our waitlist and get more parents engaged in services much more quickly than before. Our first Measure 110 parent mentor hire is an FNC graduate.

As the father of five children myself, and someone who has benefitted from programs like what FNC offers to residents in Jackson and Josephine Counties, I know how important these services are. Measure 110 is helping parents in Southern Oregon learn new tools to cope with

life's challenges, how to heal past traumas, create a strong foundation for their recovery, and bond with their children in new ways.

Please, find an alternate funding source for HB 3431. Our communities are counting on us to be there for them and Measure 110 funding is allowing us to do exactly that.

Sincerely,

Brendon Kinzel on behalf of the Family Nurturing Center