

Submitter: Sunday Kamppi  
On Behalf Of: NW OR Healthy Families  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Joint Ways & Means Education Sub Committee  
Testimony – HB 5506  
April 5, 2023

Good morning, Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and members of the Joint Ways & Means. 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.

As a voluntary statewide accredited home visiting program for families pre-natal to age 3. Healthy Families Oregon is now on our 30th year serving Oregon families! Healthy Families is one of Oregon's first child abuse prevention program starting services back in 1992.

NW Healthy Families 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 within our local program. An increase is needed for pay parity and equity. Present salaries within the Early Childhood budget puts the program below what other early childhood programs are paid for other similar jobs. At a minimum, HFO staff still need an additional \$10M to obtain pay parity, retain current staff and increase the number of families served in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties.

Yet, Healthy Families programs serves less than 20 percent of those families qualifying for and request 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 in the current budget for the new Department of Early Learning and Care, there are still investments that need to be made over and above to stabilize services for Oregon neediest families.

1. We respectfully ask for a \$10M increase in the 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. (\$2M pay parity left out of the GRB from 2023 increase, \$5M 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.