

April 24, 2023

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is **Holly Lange** and I am writing to ask that the Joint Ways and Means Committee appropriate funding to provide the non-federal matching funding needed for Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) programs to receive Medicaid reimbursement across the state.

NFP is an evidence-based community health program with 45 years of evidence showing significant improvement in the health and lives of first-time parents and their children facing economic and social barriers. NFP has operated in Oregon since 1999. NFP works by having specially trained nurses regularly visit young, first-time parents-to-be, starting early in the pregnancy and continuing through the child's second birthday. With the support of an NFP nurse, families are able to see better pregnancy outcomes, improved child health and development, and greater economic self-sufficiency. Parents, babies, families, and communities all benefit from the proven services of NFP.

As an NFP nurse home visitor for the last 11 years, I have seen how effective the NFP program is in supporting families to meet their personal goals, to change unhealthy generational patterns, and to prevent the adverse childhood experiences that are so predictive of life-long poor outcomes. Over the years, my clients have completed their GED, secured low-income housing for the first time, and learned how to be the loving and securely attached parents they never had themselves. The unique NFP Model Elements that make the difference, in my view, are starting services early in pregnancy with first-time parents, the frequency of visits over the 2+ years in the program, and the relationship-based approach. It has been an honor to truly make a difference in my community with my clients.

NFP programs in Oregon rely on Medicaid to pay for their services to families, but Medicaid requires non-federal match funding that is currently being paid by the county health departments. This funding arrangement creates a threat to the sustainability of NFP in counties implementing the program. Also, counties that cannot pay the match funding are unable to implement an NFP program. This creates unequal access to the beneficial outcomes of this program.

I support NFP's request for \$8 million from the General Fund to provide the non-federal Medicaid match for NFP programs. This funding would be appropriated to the Health Systems Division of the Oregon Health Authority. 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.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Holly Lange RN PHN

