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Organization/City : Family Preservation Project/Clackamas
Position on measure – Select Support

TO: Ways & Means Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez, and Members of the Committee
DATE: May 3, 2023
RE: SUPPORT THE FAMILY PRESERVATION PROJECT/HB 2731

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and members of the Committee,

Please fund the Family Preservation Project/HB 2731. The bill creates in statute and funds the Family Preservation Project (FPP), which mitigates the impacts of parental incarceration on kids in Oregon that have a parent in prison. The program also secures almost a dollar-for-dollar match from private funds AND saves the state at least that much in other costs related to incarcerated moms and their children.

FPP has impacted the lives of thousands of Oregon mothers and children, providing services to help incarcerated women and their children overcome cycles of poverty, trauma, and intergenerational involvement in the criminal justice system.

I support FPP, because.....

- I myself have been incarcerated for over 7 years and in and out of prison and jail. They have done so much for me each time. I would be really in a bad situation if it wasn't for the FPP and YWCA. They have given me support and hope for the future.
- As a mother they've helped me emotionally and helped me to get back on my feet with a phone, tablet, hygiene, etc. for someone that had nothing coming out of the prison gates. For someone who had nothing to start with it meant a lot.
- Even after they have been supportive in putting me in a Peer Wellness Specialist class so I can give back to the community. Also help others just like me with resources and someone to just be there for them. They have help me to pursue my career in something I love to do.
- They truly care for me as a whole and being in a place of being someone who always messed up it feels great that people actually care about you and your wellbeing.
- They also have helped me so much with my legal issues with my children and help my oldest daughter when she couldn't pay for her rent at one time. I honestly can say they go out of their way to help us mothers and I am so grateful.

- Lastly, funding FPP helps to actualize the Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents. It is critical that we as a community and as a state recognize the needs and prioritize the rights of children of incarcerated parents from the time of their parent's arrest through incarceration. We must do better.
- There are many associated costs to the state when we do not intervene for infants born to mothers in custody or for children of incarcerated parents. Having a parent in prison significantly impacts a child's mental health, social behavior, and educational outcomes. There are no established safety nets to catch this often invisible, but growing population of children in our state. We must do better.

Funding FPP ensures fewer children are placed in foster care, incarcerated moms are less likely to go back to prison, and children of participants are exhibiting successful outcomes academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to Oregon. Please support HB 2731 so that these critical supports and services do not go away.

Sincerely,

YunMi Kim
Clackamas, OR