



February 5th, 2024

TO: House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services  
FROM: Our Children Oregon, The Children's Agenda  
RE: Support for HB 4105, Nurse-Family Medicaid Match Funding

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Sharf, 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 ~135 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 2024 legislative agenda that focuses on community-driven solutions to provide access and opportunities for all children and families. **This year, Nurse-Family Medicaid Match (HB 4105) is a top priority of the 2024 Children's Agenda.**

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence-based, community health program with over 40 years of research 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 \$3.2 million 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 HB 4105 and the funding ask for Nurse-Family Partnership.

Sincerely,

Our Children Oregon  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Baby Blues Connection  
Children's Institute  
Clackamas Women's Services  
Community Action Team/Child & Family  
Development Programs  
Family Forward Oregon  
Family Forward Oregon  
Farmworker Housing Development Corp.  
IRCO  
Metropolitan Family Service

Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries  
Oregon Association of Student Councils  
Oregon AG's Sexual Assault Task Force  
Oregon CASA Network  
Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials  
Oregon Primary Care Association  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon  
Southern Oregon Success  
TransPonder  
Trillium Family Services

