Good afternoon,

My name is Angela Hoertkorn and I have been a home visiting nurse with Lane County Nurse Family Partnership for seven years. Committee members, I'm here to ask that you provide the necessary matching funds to support the work that Nurse-Family Partnership nurses provide across this state. HB 4105 is the vehicle that will ensure this work continues throughout Oregon.

In this role I meet families during their first pregnancy and get to continue to meet with them every 1-2 weeks until their child turns two. During that crucial first 1,000 days of the child's development I get the privilege of showing up for the family, over and over and over. For far too many of the parents I work with this is their first experience of someone caring for them in a consistent manner without demanding anything in return. It's very difficult to provide, or even imagine, for their child what they have never experienced themselves. This is referred to as the "parallel process", where part of what the home visitor does is to be a role model for effective caregiving. We scaffold and support our clients with the steps they make toward their goals and help them dust themselves off when they stumble and soften their landing as much as possible or try to prevent them from falling through cracks in their systems of support. More than anything this implicit teaching through experience provides the foundation for them to be supportive parents as their children experience life's ups and down.

Families come to trust their nurse not only has important information to share and knowledge to help them connect to resources they might need, but also cares deeply and has the best interest of the child and family always at the forefront. We have the time to really get to know the strengths and barriers each individual faces, and how to leverage their strengths to make progress toward their goals. I have seen families move from homelessness into stable housing, begin and complete work on their GED, go to college, enter the job market, sometimes for the first time ever, and access quality childcare.

Because of the trusting relationship established and the opportunity to tailor teaching to a specific family's needs and abilities, our program is able to increase well child visits and immunization rates while decreasing emergency room visits. We can notice subtle changes to vital signs in pregnant clients and help them access appropriate care in a timely fashion, and administer developmental screenings to facilitate earlier referral and access to early intervention services. By facilitating a secure parent child attachment and providing education about child development, clients are empowered to raise their children in a different fashion from how they were raised. I don't think I've had a day at work yet where I didn't have the satisfaction of seeing at least one family I work with achieve at least a small victory. I

have also supported families through loss and grief where the presence of someone who deeply cares and knows how to access appropriate resources is truly life changing.

In Lane County alone, during 2023 we received referrals for 300 families on OHP who were expecting their first child. This represents over 70% of Nurse-Family Partnership eligible families being referred to us. During 2023, 170 families in Lane County were served by Nurse-Family Partnership.

I would like to share with you now, with her permission, a message I received in June from a client who graduated almost three years ago. I have edited out the names.

"I can say without a shadow of a doubt that what you do saves lives and oh how I wish it was available to every mother. Your job, your role, your care saved 3 lives. Mine, (child 1) and (child 2). Had you not been involved when I had (child 1) I don't think we would still be alive. Thank you for existing and doing the work that you do."

Thank you to everyone who supports this work.