

**To:** Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Scharf, and members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services  
**From:** Bridget Budbill, Legislative Advocate at the Oregon Law Center  
**Re:** House Bill 4105 – Nurse/Family Partnership program  
**Date:** February 5, 2024

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services:

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center, I ask that you support House Bill [\(HB\) 4105](#), which stabilizes the Nurse-Family Partnership program.

**Why the Oregon Law Center supports the Nurse-Family Partnership:**

The Nurse-Family Partnership expands access to health care for low-income Oregonians during a life-changing time: parents’ first pregnancy through the first two years of their baby’s lives. It does so by pairing nurses – among the world’s real-life superheroes – with low-income families to provide in-home health care supports and services.

For many OLC clients, many of whom qualify for this program through Medicaid eligibility, simply getting to and from health care appointments is tough due to unreliable access to a car or other safe transportation. This program allows nurses to check-in on new parents and babies at home, saving families the worry of how they’ll get to an appointment. The Nurse-Family Partnership also provides families with the opportunity to build a relationship with a nurse, which may be a first, as many low-income Oregonians have inconsistent access to health care throughout their lifetimes. This program has proven that better access to health care results in better health outcomes for babies and their parents.<sup>1</sup>

**What House Bill 4105 does for the Nurse-Family Partnership:**

Oregon has nine counties with existing Nurse-Family Partnerships: Jackson, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Morrow, Multnomah, Umatilla, Washington, and Yamhill counties. Currently, these counties cover the program costs *not* covered by Medicaid funds. This is atypical of federal Medicaid programs, which typically share costs with the state. HB 4105 fixes this irregularity by asking for state funds (\$3.16 million) to cover the non-Medicaid share of the program, rather than rely on whether participating counties have funds available. HB 4105 will also fund 10 new nurse positions in

---

<sup>1</sup> Nurse-Family Partnership State Profile: Oregon (2023). [https://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OR\\_2023State-Profile.pdf](https://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OR_2023State-Profile.pdf).



# Oregon Law Center

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE FOR LOW INCOME OREGONIANS

Bridget Budbill  
Legislative Advocate  
Oregon Law Center  
503.502.3044 (cell)  
[bbudbill@oregonlawcenter.org](mailto:bbudbill@oregonlawcenter.org)

existing county programs. In all, HB 4105 will create a more stable funding source for a life-changing program helping parents and babies in our state.

Thank you very much for your support of the Nurse-Family Partnership; please reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Bridget

Bridget Budbill  
Legislative Advocate, Oregon Law Center  
503.502.3044 (cell)  
[bbudbill@oregonlawcenter.org](mailto:bbudbill@oregonlawcenter.org)

***The Oregon Law Center's mission is to achieve justice for low-income communities in Oregon by providing a full range of the highest quality civil legal services.***