

Submitter: Amy Carlson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2555

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the Committee,

I am a supporter of the Family Sentencing Alternative Program (FSAP) which reduces recidivism and keeps families together.

There are many humane and effective ways to reduce crime and help people, families, and communities heal.

One great example is FSAP. Created by the Legislature in 2015 through the passage of HB 3503, FSAP diverts pregnant mothers, recent parents, and primary caregivers away from a term of incarceration and into strict community supervision. In the community supervision program, program participants can receive vocational training, go through parental life skills classes, and receive other support that will keep families healthy and together.

FSAP operates in five counties, and it has demonstrated important success over the last decade. HB 2555 makes a few important changes to the program to ensure it continues making our communities safe and keeping Oregon's families together:

- * Eliminates the sunset clause and makes FSAP a permanent program
- * Enables those who receive a downward departure to probation to receive services through FSAP
- * Allows for true primary caretakers of children (e.g. a grandparent is the one taking care of the child, but is not the legal guardian) to receive services through this program
- * Ensures that program participants can be connected to services that are best suited to their needs

I urge your support for the Family Sentencing Alternative Program (HB 2555).