

February 18, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary
H-174
Salem, OR

RE: HB 2555 Regarding the Family Sentencing Alternative Program

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, Committee Members.

I'd like to thank the Committee for your support for community supervision in Oregon. Programs supported by the State, such as the Family Alternative Sentencing Program, allow Multnomah County to support eligible justice involved families in the community and fulfill the Department of Community Justice's vision, *Community Safety through Positive Change*.

Multnomah County supports HB 2555, establishing the Family Alternative Sentencing Program (FSAP) as a permanent program available in Oregon. The program works collaboratively with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) in a multi-disciplinary team process to promote the reunification of families, prevent children from entering the foster care system, and hold adults on supervision accountable to help families thrive.

This program is an important mechanism to reduce reliance on jail beds that often pull individuals deeper into the justice system, and instead offers an opportunity to maintain family stability and community safety. Multnomah County has participated in the FSAP program as a pilot County since 2016. The program can serve up to 30 parents at a time through a full time caseload, supporting over 60 families since its inception. The State's FSAP support to Multnomah County is limited, yet effective, with a 2020 study by the Criminal Justice Commission indicating that the program is effective in reducing recidivism and revocation. With an annual investment of \$276,455, Multnomah County is able to provide specialized supervision, client assistance and referrals to additional treatment providers. If HB 2555 is not passed, the program will conclude in July 2025, and the individuals enrolled in FSAP will be reassigned to general probation without the client assistance and parenting programs funded by this program.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 2555. We believe that establishing the Family Sentencing Alternative Program as a permanent program is a priority for supporting community safety, lasting behavior change and safety for families through a trauma-informed approach. We respectfully request your support for HB 2555.

Sincerely,

Tira Hubbard
Director, Adult Services Division
Multnomah County Department of Community Justice

Submitted by: Stacy Cowan, stacy.cowan@multco.us