



February 19, 2025

To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Zach Winston, Director of Policy and Outreach, OJRC

RE: **In Support of HB 2555**

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallan and Chotzen, and Committee Members:

My name is Zach Winston. I am the Director of Policy and Outreach at the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC). I am writing in support of HB 2555.

The OJRC works to promote civil rights and improve legal representation for communities that have often been underserved in the past including people living in poverty and people of color. We work to create a more fair, just and humane criminal legal system and to educate the public on issues related to civil rights and liberties.

The OJRC supports HB 2555, which makes the pilot Family Sentencing Alternative Program (FSAP) permanent. FSAP diverts pregnant mothers, recent parents, and primary caregivers away from a term of incarceration and into community supervision. In the community supervision program, participants can receive vocational training, go through parental life skills classes, and receive other beneficial support. The services offered through FSAP reduce recidivism and help keep families together.

FSAP operates in five counties and has demonstrated important success over the last decade. HB 2555 will make a few important changes to ensure FSAP can continue making our communities safer and keeping Oregon's families together:

1. Eliminating the sunset clause and making FSAP a permanent program;
2. Enabling those who receive a downward departure to probation to receive services through FSAP;
3. Allowing for true primary caretakers of children (e.g. a grandmother or grandfather is the one taking care of the child, but is not the legal guardian) to receive services through this program; and
4. Ensuring that program participants can be connected to services that are best suited to their needs.

FSAP helps keep families together, reduces the amount of time children spend in foster care, and invests in treatment, parenting, and other resources, which are far less expensive and more impactful than incarceration.

The OJRC urges the committee to support HB 2555.

Thank You,

Zach Winston

Zach Winston
Oregon Justice Resource Center
Director of Policy and Outreach