Dear Esteemed Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Hilary Nichols and I work at a community health center in SE Portland as a clinic-based Community Organizer. My work aims to tackle health equity issues upstream, focusing on laws, policy, and regulations that make our communities sick. I am also a mom to a beautiful three-year-old child. From both my expertise in upstream public health and my passion as a parent, I urge you to support for HB 2555 because our society functions better when we have healthy, united, and supported families.

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 will make a few important changes to the program to ensure it can continue making our communities safe and keeping Oregon's families together:

* Eliminate the sunset clause and make FSAP a permanent program;
* Enable those who receive a downward departure to probation to receive services through FSAP;
* Allow 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;
* Ensure that program participants can be connected to services that are best suited to their needs.

I urge your support for the Family Sentencing Alternative (HB 2555). Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony, and for your service to make a healthier Oregon.