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**To:** Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary  
**From:** Bridget Budbill, Legislative Advocate at the Oregon Law Center  
**Re:** HB 3347 – TANF Spousal/Child Support Pass-Through  
**Date:** February 20, 2025

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center (OLC), we ask that you support House Bill (HB) 3347, which would change the way Oregon treats spousal and child support for families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), a temporary public assistance grant program. OLC provides free, civil legal services to low-income Oregonians all over the state. This includes support navigating TANF requirements.

Right now, Oregon law requires that a family receiving TANF must forgo all but \$50 per child of any child support payment, with a maximum payment of \$200 per family; the rest going is kept by the state to recoup public assistance costs. TANF monthly payments are relatively modest per family. For example, a family of three (such as a Mom and two kids, or a Dad with two kids) receiving no other countable income may receive a maximum of \$506 in TANF per month. If child support, for example, was established in the amount of \$200 per month, that family would only see \$100 of the child support, because the state would keep the other half to offset the family's participation in TANF. HB 3347 would allow the *entire* support payment to reach Oregon families.

HB 3347 would help struggling families as soon as it takes effect. Even relatively small increases in income each month for our client communities is the difference between buying suitable clothes for a job interview, getting a headlight fixed, or paying for bus fare, or not. For kids in our client communities, it means the difference between having a birthday cake or enough food for breakfast, or not.

TANF and other public assistance programs operate through complex eligibility thresholds that rely on countable income and asset determinations, among other things, to ensure program compliance. HB 3347 also requires that any increase in support payment income would not count towards a family's TANF eligibility. This is important because, for our client communities, most often both parents are low-income, meaning support payments are typically modest amounts of money. Having an increase in support payments cancel TANF eligibility out would leave families worse off.

We note that, in some cases, the increased support payment funds may push some of our clients over income limits for certain assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. However, based on the agency analysis presented, the net benefit of the increased support payments reaching families on TANF will nearly always offset any decrease in other assistance funds.

Thank you for your time, and we hope you will support HB 3347.

Sincerely,

Bridget Budbill

***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.***