



Oregon Women's Rights Coalition

HB-3347 First to Families-Support

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan and members of the committee:

The Oregon Women's Rights Coalition has been following support for families through the state system since our inception in 1973. We continue to advocate for improvements supporting families as they struggle for self-sufficiency.

We support the proposal to forward payments for child support to TANF recipients without limitation. This should improve the stability of those families for whom child support has been established. No longer will the limitation of \$50 per child or \$200 for a family from child support payments occur.

The greater issue, however, is the cash amount paid to TANF families in the program. For a **family of three the cash amount is \$506**, not even 23% of the Federal Poverty Level.

With the full pass-through families might get close to 41% of the Federal Poverty Level. But it is a start.

OWRC urges the committee to support this bill. Given the information coming out of our federal legislators those who are in the most fragile economic situations will need any resource we can provide just to survive.

A reminder. Below is the ORS citation discussing standards the state should meet.

ORS 411.070 (2) (a)

Take into consideration all basic requirements for a standard of living compatible with decency and health, including food, shelter, clothing, fuel, public utilities, telecommunications service, medical care and other essential items and, upon the basis of investigations of the facts, shall provide budgetary guides for determining minimum costs of meeting such requirements.

Please support this bill for the families for which it applies. Remember, however, we need to do better for the other families in the TANF program.

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