February 10, 2025

TO: Senate Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Committee
FROM: Marley Chavarria, Our Children Oregon
SUBJECT: SB 1033, Nurse-Family Partnership Ask for State to Pay Medicaid Match

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marley Chavarria and I am a Policy & Advocacy Intern at Our Children Oregon. I am writing on behalf of Our Children Oregon to share support for SB 1033. This bill would provide for the sustainability and potential growth of Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) programs across Oregon. Specifically, this bill directs the state to provide the non-federal match funding necessary for NFP programs to receive the Medicaid funding they need to serve families.

NFP programs in Oregon rely on Medicaid to pay for their services to families, but Medicaid requires non-federal match funding which is currently being paid by county health departments. Having countries pay the non-federal Medicaid match puts NFP out of alignment with how nearly all Medicaid services in Oregon are supported. It also is a deviation from how other evidence-based home visiting programs are supported with state dollars without a county match, such as Healthy Families Oregon or Family Connects.

Given limitations on revenue and growing costs, Oregon counties continually must navigate budgetary challenges. Relying on county funding also prevents NFP from growing to serve families in other parts of the state, creating health inequities and disparate outcomes throughout Oregon.

Our Children Oregon supports SB 1033 to provide state general funds to provide non-federal Medicaid match for NFP programs. This will allow NFP programs in Oregon more certainty to provide services and would help NFP continue expanding in future years to counties that do not have programs.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your consideration of this request.

Best,

Marley Chavarria, Policy and Advocacy Intern, Our Children Oregon

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