

Submitter: Deborah Jensen
On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I am a nurse working with families in the Nurse Family Partnership program. Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is a nurse home visiting program for expectant parents who are facing economic and social barriers. The home visits start early in the pregnancy and continue through the child's second birthday. With the support of an NFP nurse, families experience better pregnancy outcomes, improved child health and development, and greater economic self-sufficiency. Parents, babies, families, and communities all benefit from the proven services of NFP. NFP has operated in Oregon since 1999 and has served over 7,900 families since that time. I am writing this to encourage the ongoing and increased support of this program in this next budget year.

The health and societal benefits of this program are well documented.

Supporting the existing NFP programs in Oregon and laying the foundation for more communities to offer NFP services will deliver greater state cost savings statewide from improved health outcomes for both the parent and the child. The outcomes that have been proven by the research on NFP include great things like:

- 48% reduction in state-verified reports of child abuse and neglect by child age 15
- 56% reduction in emergency room visits for accidents and poisonings in the second year of the child's life
- 50% reduction in language delays by child age 21 months
- 67% reduction in behavioral and emotional problems at child age 6
- 82% increase in labor force participation 4 years after delivery of first child among low-income unmarried mothers
- 61% fewer arrests of the mother
- 46% increase in father presence in household by child age 4

I am writing this testimony to provide an inside view. I have personally witnessed powerful changes in my client's lives during my 2 + years with them. When I enroll a pregnant family a comment I hear repeatedly is "I want to be different than my parent". Those who disclose experiencing violence, neglect, or parental drug use as a child express a commitment to providing a positive nurturing experience for their own child.

The outcomes of the Nurse Family Partnership program identified in the statistics describe significant lifelong benefits to the parents and children. As a nurse who has spent over 50 years in caring for families with children, seeing the benefits for families unfold before my eyes in real time is a picture that is priceless. The Nurse

Family Partnership program is an investment in the future.