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On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1167

Implementing Upstream in Eastern Oregon will focus on two primary aspects. First, the focus will be on improving System Navigation BMELH's designs pilot. Senate Bill (SB) 1167 will include (2) Upstream Conveners the total expense will total \$350,000. These conveners will assist pregnant families in accessing vital care and services that ensure they have healthy births and remain stable during this vulnerable stage (pregnancy to children at age 2).

An example of problems we face in Eastern Oregon include being isolated to a rural area, resources are spread out, many families must cross county lines to access resources and many agencies are siloed because of distance, staffing turnover (moving job/roles). For example: It typically takes about 3 years for a new direct service professional, like a community health worker or home visitor to get up to speed on all services and resources in a region.

How will an upstream convener change these conditions?

- Bring together service providers, keep track of programs, availability and resources and contacts
- Build relationships so families have reliable contact

The second aspect of the bill includes expanding subsidized Infant childcare for working families by incorporating 30 Baby Promise into our communities. Baby Promise will offer free, year-round, high-quality early care and education for infants and toddlers from low-income families. Children ages six weeks to three years will be served. The conveners can connect them to a Baby Promise provider. From there infants can form a secure attachment. Research indicates these environments and connections such as these boosts a child's confidence, trust, and social-emotional skills. Therefore, helping young children understand and communicate emotions, form early friendships, and deal with challenges. In addition, having these resources will allow caregivers to return to the workforce more quickly, as a result this will positively affect the economy.