

Submitter: Tara Webster

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3933

Chair Hartman, Vice Chair Scharf, members of the committee,
My name is Tara Webster and I am the Program Director for A Family Gathering Place Relief Nursery of Klamath Falls. I would like to start by sharing a personal testament to why Relief Nurseries are so impactful to our communities. I started working in a Relief Nursery when I was twenty six years old. I was a newly wed with a kindergarten student and a child on the way. I may not have been receiving services from the relief nursery but the skills and tools I learned for to help support the families in our program changed the way I parented forever. You see my oldest child had trauma of their own and been a child who experienced abuse. These skills made em a better parent just by working with the families and for the Relief Nursery. If it could do so much for me imagine what it does for those in our program. At A Family Gathering Place we serve 42 of the highest needs families and have a waitlist of 32. We are expanding our area of services through a new contract to provide outreach services to lake county along with those we serve in the Klamath Basin. We see and hear that there is more need for support services in our area and are trying to make that happen. I would like to thank Representative McIntire for introducing House Bill 3933 and thank you committee for your on going support of Oregon's Relief Nurseries because of your support we are able to continue to make a difference.