



Partners for a
Hunger-Free Oregon

Ending hunger before it begins.

MEASURE: HB 4160
EXHIBIT: 6
2012 SESSION H HUMAN SERVICES
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SUBMITTED BY: Jessica Chanay

To: Members of the House Human Services Committee
From: Jessica Chanay, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Re: HB 4160 in support of funding for the Post-TANF program
Date: February 10, 2012

The Post-TANF program helps families transition successfully into employment by helping them meet new expenses such as childcare co-pays, gas, new clothing and tools. It provides them with a monthly grant of \$50 for up to one year.

The TANF program was reformed in 2007 through a bi-partisan effort that resulted in HB 2469. The transition period between TANF and new employment was acknowledged as a pivotal time for families. Post-TANF originally provided families with a larger amount (\$150/mo) to aid in this transition; however, it was reduced to \$100 in 2009, and to \$50 in 2010 due to budget constraints. It is now scheduled to be eliminated on June 30, 2012, or as early as April 2012, according the Ways and Means Co-Chairs' proposal.

A new job can be an economic hardship due to unforeseen costs associated with employment. Even though Post-TANF is a small amount, families stay off of TANF. Families transitioning off TANF often see other benefits decrease. With new expenses and lower income from other benefits, some newly-employed families may not be able to maintain a new job, making it necessary to re-apply for TANF.

Post-TANF also helps ~~the~~ Oregon meet federal work participation requirements. While the state is moving towards compliance with the federal government on participation rates, it will have a harder time reaching its goals without the Post TANF program. The penalties would be in the range of \$8 million, compared to the cost of funding Post TANF at \$1.4 million (for the second year of the biennium). Federal targets are a percentage of the TANF caseload, thus as the caseloads rise, so do the number of mandatory families required to participate. TANF caseloads have been increasing, making it more important to support those families that are able to secure employment.

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon strongly supports passage of HB 4160.