

JACKIE DINGFELDER  
STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 23



MEASURE: HB 4160  
EXHIBIT: 7  
2012 SESSION H HUMAN SERVICES  
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SUBMITTED BY: Sen Jackie Dingfelder

OREGON STATE SENATE  
900 COURT ST. NE S-407  
SALEM, OR 97301

To: House Human Services Committee  
From: Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Senate District 23  
Date: February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 4160**

Co-Chair Gilliam, Co-Chair Tomei, and members of the committee, thank you for hearing HB 4160 and for the opportunity to offer these written comments in support of this bill.

A new job can be an exciting start to a different and better life for a family, but a new job can also put a strain on a family's limited resources due to costs associated with employment. Perhaps the family member needs to buy new clothing or tools for the job, or maybe there are increased transportation costs to commute to the work location. For low-income families, there is a program that can help.

Parents who were once eligible for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) but became ineligible due to increased income from a new job, can receive post-TANF assistance. That means these families receive a monthly grant of \$50 that helps cover the transitional expenses of employment. Post-TANF assistance helps families maintain their new employment, and without this support many families would falter and likely end up back on TANF. HB 4160 requests funding that will allow the post-TANF program to continue assisting approximately 2,200 Oregon families who are transitioning off TANF and into regular employment.

Through my work with the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force I've learned how important it is to preserve programs that help families remain strong and thriving. With HB 4160, I believe we can help families—and in particular we can help children—succeed, which in turn means we can help Oregon succeed. I ask that you join me in supporting the post-TANF program.

