



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission for Women  
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"  
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Testimony in Support of HB 4160,  
Maintaining critical funding for TANF  
Friday, February 10, 2012, 3 p.m.,  
House Human Services Committee

MEASURE: 8 HB 4160  
EXHIBIT: 8  
2012 SESSION H HUMAN SERVICES  
DATE: 2/10/2012 PAGES: 1  
SUBMITTED BY: Sunny Petit

Co-Chairs Gilliam & Tomei, Co-Vice Chairs Frederick & Thompson,  
Rep. Greenlick, Rep. Harker, Rep. Parrish, and Rep. Weidner:

The Oregon Commission for Women seeks your passage of HB 4160  
in the 2012 Legislative Session ensuring the continuation of critical  
funds to families seeking self-sufficiency.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program was  
implemented under the Personal Responsibility and Work  
Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PWRORA) of 1996 (Public Law  
104-193). As Oregon struggles to emerge from recession, increasing  
numbers of women enter the workforce annually and continued  
funding to Post-TANF empowers recipients in their transition to  
employment and economic stability.

The Oregon Commission for Women believes that while the factors  
that lead families to seek temporary assistance are complex, the road  
out of poverty is clearer for parents knowing their families have basic  
support. It allows women to focus on transitioning into successful  
long term employment in a more stable environment.

Oregon's unemployment rate still remains higher than the national  
average, at 9.1 percent and its hunger rate remains above national  
figures. It is currently estimated that 500,000 Oregonians experience  
hunger, many of them children. Research has shown that economic  
instability factors into issues of domestic violence and substance abuse, and similarly increase  
the risks of child abuse and neglect.

Thank you for your positive consideration of Post-TANF support for women in transition to  
employment. Please vote aye on HB 4160.

Sincerely,

Sunny Petit, Chair  
Oregon Commission for Women

Jenny Greenleaf, Vice Chair  
Oregon Commission for Women

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