



Marion County
OREGON

Community Services Department

February 13, 2013

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**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

Janet Carlson
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Representative Carolyn Tomei, Chair
House Human Services and Housing Committee
Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2392

**CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER**

John Lattimer

Dear Representative Tomei and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of HB 2392 and an amendment that will accompany it.

DIRECTOR

Alison S. Kelley

Children & Families

Dog Services

County Fair

OSU Extension Service

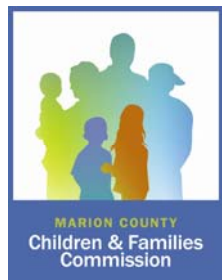
In Marion County, we strongly support the work of the Youth Development Council. In counties such as ours where there is a high rate of teen pregnancy, investing in prevention and intervention for youth can be strategic method of improving early childhood outcomes which are such a high priority for the State of Oregon. We applaud the Governor, our legislative leaders, and the Youth Development Council for investing in prevention and intervention for youth.

When it comes to the question of how best to invest, there appears to be emerging concern relating to the difference between using a statewide allocation formula and instead administering competitive grants. I write in support of the concept of using an allocation methodology that makes funding available for proven youth prevention and intervention approaches in all areas of the state. Considering the use of performance-based contracts would ensure that statewide outcomes are achieved.

Our experience in Marion County has shown that the switch to competitive grants can have an unintended consequence of making it so difficult to apply that deserving yet under-resourced areas are not able to secure the funding they need. Many underserved areas are not able to divert the needed people or resources to write grant applications, and their inability to secure funding can perpetuate chronic problems. Instead, as a state, we should strive to work together to break chronic cycles of unmet need wherever they occur. Therefore, I encourage you to consider supporting an approach that will allow for an allocation methodology that makes funding available for proven youth prevention and intervention approaches in all areas of the state.

Very truly yours,

Alison S. Kelley



MARION COUNTY
Children & Families
Commission