



**Date:** April 7, 2015  
**To:** Human Services & Early Childhood Committee, Chair Gelser and Members  
**From:** Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations Consultant  
**RE:** *SB 939 [Family Preservation Program]*

On behalf of OEA's 42,000 members, some of whom have worked with the Family Preservation Program by Skyping in to Coffee Creek for Parent-Teacher conferences, we offer our enthusiastic support for SB 939-1, especially if it causes the Dept. of Corrections to flip the switch and restore the FPP, rather than re-invent the wheel.

We know that students who are coping with family challenges benefit educationally when they are able to receive successful supports, such as the FPP model provided until last month. As a member of the work group on this bill, it has been an honor to advocate for the wonderful model that this state should regard with pride and wholeheartedly support. It is our belief that the metrics that DOC used to justify its shut-down of the program failed to consider the best interests of the children served. As so many others will tell you, FPP gave these children the opportunity to bond with their incarcerated parent and to experience, therefore, less trauma and greater chance of excelling in their educational pursuits.

Even as we advocate for more resources for our public education system, we stand with the advocates of SB 939, to advocate for resources that will restart this incredible, comprehensive program, which stands as a national model. Please join us in support of this bill. Thank you.