



Oregon TANF Alliance

Strengthening Families, Protecting Children

Including: Central City Concerns • Children First for Oregon • Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon • Oregon Center for Public Policy • Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Authorities • Oregon Hunger Task Force • Oregon Law Center
Oregon Women's Rights Coalition • Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon • Urban League of
Portland

To: House Rules Committee
From: Patti Whitney-Wise, Convener, TANF Alliance
Subject: HB 3535
Date: May 7, 2015

The TANF Alliance has been a strong and supportive partner at the table with DHS and, more recently, in the TANF workgroup to help assure that TANF is strengthened to stabilize families with financial assistance, while connecting them to supportive services. The prosperity of our state depends on our ability to cultivate the health and well being of the next generation. When we invest wisely in our kids and families - especially when they need temporary assistance to get back on their feet - we create stronger opportunities for the next generation to be healthy and productive.

HB 3535 embodies much of what we have worked on together, recognizing that it is a down payment on what is fully needed. HB 3535 reinvests \$30 million of the \$80 million cut during the recession and targets it to strategies that will improve families' lives and provide a stronger pathway to stability.

This reinvestment targets much needed improvements, including:

- Reducing the “benefits cliff” when clients become employed.
- Simplifying eligibility requirements to strengthen family connections and stability for children.
- Reinvesting in family stability services.
- Increasing flexibility in support services to prevent families from needing TANF, and
- Improving program capacity to provide strength-based, customized and outcome-focused case management.





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We urge your strong support for HB 3535 and we look forward to working in the interim with legislators and DHS to propose additional long-term improvements to create strong, healthy families and communities.



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