



Date: March 25, 2017

TO: The Honorable [Senator Sara Gelser](#), Chair  
The Honorable [Senator Alan Olsen](#), Vice-Chair  
House Human Services Committee

FROM: Sue Graves, Differential Response Family Navigator  
DHS/Klamath-Lake Community Action Services

SUBJECT: SB 942 - Statewide Study Regarding Child Safety

Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Olsen, Members of the Committee:

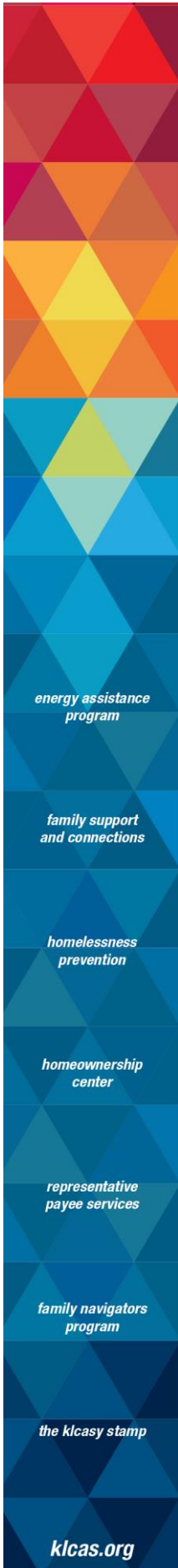
For the record, my name is Susan S. Graves, Head of the Klamath-Lake Community Action Services Differential Response/Family Navigation Team. Our program is funded through a contract with the Office of the Department of Human Services in Klamath Falls, Oregon. I am here to testify on behalf of the Oregon DHS Differential Response Program

When a family becomes involved in the DHS Child Welfare System, much is expected of them, and rightly so. Identified instances of child abuse and neglect must be addressed thoroughly and immediately.

In situations where these areas of concern are not severe, an alternative approach has been shown to be effective and successful. Parents referred to the Differential Response track are often experiencing patterns of poverty, unemployment, domestic violence, drug addiction or lack of stable housing and basic services. When parents choose to participate in Family Navigation services, they are offered resources, skills, guidance and encouragement; they are offered hope.

And when these services educate, strengthen and empower parents, their children benefit as well, and the family is given the opportunity to thrive.

Quoting the Oregon DHS brochure, "Differential Response is based on the belief that parents love their children and want them to be safe. But they may need help to make that happen."



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The Klamath-Lake Community Action Services Family Navigation Program has equipped many parents with the tools they need to strengthen, preserve and reunite their families. We believe in this program and in the difference it can make in Oregon's children, families and communities.

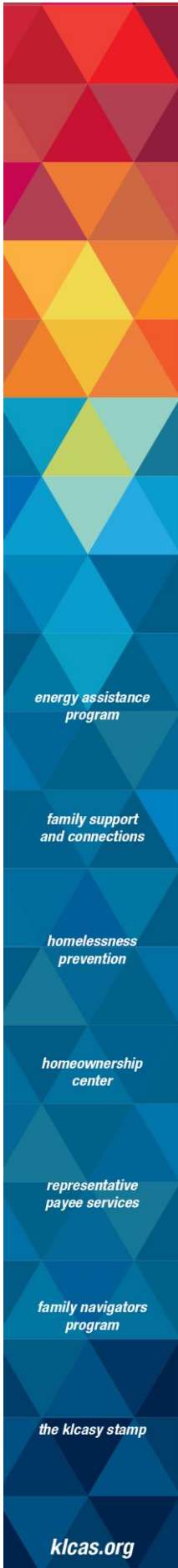
To learn more about the success of our program, please review the Family Navigation Program statistics in the attached Klamath-Lake Community Action Services Quick Facts report.

Thank you for your time, and for your dedication to the protection of the children in our state.

Sincerely,

Sue Graves  
1210 Crescent Avenue  
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601  
541-880-6246

cc: Donna Bowman, KLCAS Executive Director  
Leighshra Kloepper, KLCAS Family Navigator  
Alyssa Clements, KLCAS Family Navigator



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