

Senator Sara Gelser, Chair

Senator Alan Olsen, Vice Chair

Members of the Committee on Human Services

Dear Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Olsen and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 242, the continued funding of the the Family Preservation Project (FPP). I am impressed and heartened by the results the FPP has achieved:

- Helping at least ten children maintain placement with family instead of being placed in foster care, thus **saving the state \$300,000 in foster care expenses** in just 18 months.
- Since its inception in the early 2000s, the Intensive Family Reunification program component of FPP has demonstrated an impressive **recidivism rate of just over 3%**--much lower than the state average.
- Participants of FPP are more likely to be parenting post-incarceration and **their children are performing well on academic indicators**, according to research conducted in 2014.

Please vote yes to preserve this important program, and continue leading the nation in creative restorative justice initiatives.

My sincere thanks,

Eleanor Escafi

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