



April 3rd, 2017

Senator Sara Gelser, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
900 Court St NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance (OWHWA) is a group of legislators, health care personnel, state and local agency staff and citizen advocates who are dedicated to promoting the health, safety and economic well-being of women. Together, the Co-Chairs of the OWHWA strongly support SB 242 – a bill which would continue to fund the Family Preservation Project (FPP), a program that has been shown to increase the successful reentry of incarcerated mothers and positively impact the children effected by incarceration.

The incarceration of mothers has been shown to have negative, long lasting impacts on the mental health, social behavior and educational outcomes of their children. In fact, children with incarcerated mothers are two and a half times more likely to become incarcerated in their lifetimes than children with incarcerated fathers. The FPP has been shown to increase the successful reentry of women back into their communities and in turn reduce the intergenerational cycle of incarceration. Through FPP programs, incarcerated women and their children are given the education, support and tools they need to overcome the barriers of incarceration and achieve a brighter future, for both themselves and their children.

The Co-Chairs of the OWHWA believe that all Oregonians should be given the opportunity to lead healthy, productive lives. The Family Prevention Project gives families a second chance. We know that providing opportunities for women and children when they are at their most vulnerable can set them up for success for the rest of their lives. The OWHWA appreciates the committee's thoughtful consideration of this bill, and urges your support of SB 242.

Sincerely,

The OWHWA Co-Chairs:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Steiner Hayward".

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Senate District 17

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karin Power".

Representative Karin Power
House District 41

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Taylor".

Senator Kathleen Taylor
Senate District 21

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alissa Keny-Guyer".

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer
House District 46