

## Department of Community Justice



TO: Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

DATE: May 16, 2017

RE: Support for HB 3380A

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Chair Prozanski, Co-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Committee, my name is Katie Roller. I am the Community Justice Manager overseeing the Family Sentencing Alternatives Pilot program at Multnomah County Department of Community Justice. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3380A.

Multnomah County is one of five counties participating in the current Family Sentencing Alternative Program Pilot (FSAP). So far, approximately 30 individuals have participated in our program.

Multnomah County strongly supports HB 3380A because it will eliminate some of the statutory restrictions to program participation. Currently, barriers include disqualifications due to crime and because an individual is pregnant and not yet considered to be parenting. We could serve many more participants, and possibly even have a waitlist for this program, if these barriers were removed.

The most important aspect of the program is that participants are able to continue parenting their children in the community and not housed in prison, after an initial assessment and while receiving intensive supervision and wrap-around services. Multnomah County manages these individuals in the community with the help of our public safety and community partners.

Multnomah County's Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program is located within our Family Services Unit. This unit provides supervision through a multi-disciplinary team (MDT), working closely with child welfare, human services, health services, and mental health agencies. Services include alcohol & drug, mental health, trauma, and culturally specific treatment as well as parenting classes. Additionally, participants are paired with parenting mentors; children have access to their own mentors, if needed.

Based on our experience, FSAP clearly addresses the needs of these individuals and their families. Jacquie, a mother who has been through this program stated recently: "Being in FSAP has given me the chance to do right by my babies." Officer Combs, our Probation/Parole Officer working with these parents, recently commented on the value of the collaboration with partners: "I work closely with community partners to increase success for our clients and positively impact children, while maintaining accountability and community safety."

In summary, I respectfully request that you support HB 3380A so that more offenders can participate in this program, benefiting them, their families as well as the community at large.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Submitted by:

Katie Roller, Community Justice Manager  
Multnomah County Department of Community Justice