

Rosenberg Corey

From: Lonnie Silva <LSilva@ulpdx.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 4:30 PM
To: HECFS Exhibits
Subject: Support For House Bill 4081

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lonnie Silva. I am a Workforce Specialist at the Urban League of Portland in the Community Works Project (CWP). I have held this position since October 2016. The Community Works Project (CWP) is a partnership of six community based organizations working on behalf of the Department of Human Services (DHS). These six community organizations are IRCO, Human Solutions, the Urban League of Portland, El Programa Espanol, SEI and NAYA. The goals of the CWP JOBS Program is to help people receiving TANF and SNAP benefits find competitive employment. The Community Works Project provides participants with supportive services, job readiness skill building and job search guidance.

I am writing to you to express my support for House Bill 4081 (The TANF Bill). Many participants in the CWP JOBS Program have shared with me how the current monthly TANF cash grants are not enough to live on given the current cost of living and inflation. One of the participants said "we as families couldn't afford everything. For example, shoes, clothes or pay our rent. The JOBS Program helps us parents look for jobs and help fund transportation and day care for our children. If there are fewer opportunities, we wouldn't be able to have anything or go anywhere with our children. We will be lost and have nowhere to go. How would we protect and feed our children?" I hope this message is helpful and offers an example on how the passage of House Bill 4081 will benefit the families I serve. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Silva