



**Carla C. Piluso**  
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Date: February 8, 2018

To: Chair Lively and the House Committee on Early Childhood and Family Support

From: Carla C. Piluso, State Representative, House District 50

RE: House Bill 4081

Chair Lively and Fellow Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Family Support,

For the record, I am Carla C. Piluso, proudly representing House District 50 – the City of Gresham.

I am here today to request your support for HB 4081 with the dash 1 amendment. This bill relates to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which provides cash assistance and case management to low income families throughout Oregon. HB 4081 proposes that any savings within the TANF budget be maintained in the TANF budget and the associated JOBS program. The bill does not require new funding, but seeks to solidify the Legislature's practice of keeping budgeted TANF dollars with TANF families.

In the 2015 Session Representative Stark and I, together with a workgroup, composed of TANF advocates and input from the Department of Human Services, brought forward the TANF Reinvestment Proposal. The Legislature passed House Bill 3535, which at that time maintained approved roughly \$30 million dollars in savings be reinvested in the TANF budget for the corresponding biennium. In the 2017 Session it was again affirmed that any program savings would be reinvested, but at this time there are no savings to pass on to families.

HB 4081 dash 1 strengthens what is already in practice. Funds budgeted for TANF by the Joint Ways & Means Committee and legislatively adopted need to stay in TANF. If there are caseload savings during the interim, those case management savings need to go back into underfunded components of TANF; specifically, the cash grants and the JOBS program.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families serves as a lifeboat for our most vulnerable children and families. TANF will keep that boat afloat toward the goal of self-sufficiency.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Piluso  
State Representative

House District 50