



To: Chair Sanchez and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Sarah Lochner, Government Relations Deputy Director

Date: April 3, 2019

RE: Support for House Bill 3183 with -1 Amendment

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the Committee,

Multnomah County supports HB 3183 with -1 amendment to improve the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. TANF provides children and families with cash assistance to maintain stable housing, keep food on the table, pay for utilities and other unforeseen costs. It is Oregon's primary safety net for children in deep poverty.

Multnomah County supports the values of housing, mental health access, education and training and post-TANF investments as necessary improvements to the current TANF program.

Families often return to TANF within 12 months. Wrap-around supports paired with vocational training, and adult basic education lead to opportunities that help people transition off services into living wage jobs and career advancement.

By achieving and maintaining successful employment and avoiding re-enrollment, families are better able to achieve financial stability and build financial assets. Post-TANF resources also support people in their transition to employment and financial stability, and gives families the ability to work and overcome the benefits cliff.

The County has long been a partner in two generation work with the State, and we believe that lens should be applied to every approach with every family. Aligning and layering this work will have greater impact than work in silos.

We are supportive of the work of the TANF Work Group and want to continue working on the bill to ensure TANF is helping those in need.

Thank you,

Sarah Lochner, Government Relations Deputy Director

