



House Committee on Judiciary
Testimony in Support of HB 4040: Family Treatment Court

Chair Sanchez, Vice Chairs Bynum and Sprenger and members of the Committee.

My name is Trish Garner and I am the State Public Policy Chair of the American Association of University Women of Oregon. AAUW has been empowering women since 1881 by advancing equity through advocacy, education, and research.

It hardly requires academic citation to state that the problem of substance abuse in Oregon has reached epidemic proportions and that parental / caregiver substance abuse casts a wide net of negative sequelae for their children, and for all the citizens of Oregon. The adoption of a Family Drug Treatment Court program in the counties named in HB 4040 will go a long way to ameliorating this crisis.

The National Drug Court Institute states that families affected by parental substance use disorders often face co-occurring issues such as mental illness; posttraumatic stress disorder; social isolation; poverty; unstable housing; domestic violence; lack of access to health care services, children's developmental services, and appropriate child care; transportation issues; educational challenges; and lack of stable employment. Under the more traditional family court system, a disconnect between family court, child protective services, and substance use disorder treatment services often leads to uncoordinated and limited services.¹

The Family Treatment Court Model utilizes wraparound, interdisciplinary and culturally responsive collaboration to tackle these seemingly intractable problems. A family's needs and strengths are also assessed and utilized, and the process is led by a primary goal of parental reunification. As recognized by the National Drug Court Institute, the bedrock of the Family Treatment Court model lies in its provision of a support system necessary for families with complex needs that require intensive treatment, accountability, monitoring, services, and supports for successful reunification and success.²

The Family Drug Treatment Court model has been demonstrated to be successful. For example, the Snohomish County, Washington FDTC reports that their interventions have led those struggling with addiction to parent their children in a lifestyle of sobriety

¹ National Drug Court Institute, above, p. 7.

² National Drug Court Institute, *Family Treatment Planning Guide*, https://www.ndci.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/18803_NDCI_Planning_v7.pdf, p. 7.

and rejoin their communities as healthy, productive families. Some parents have gone on to secure employment, obtain GED's and gone onto local community college programs.³

AAUW of OR urges you to adopt the Family Drug Treatment Court model proposed by HB 4040, and importantly, to provide sufficient funding for it to thrive.

Thank you.

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³ <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/876/Family-Drug-Treatment-Court>.