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Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Dr. Reginald Richardson, Executive Director, Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission

Date: February 5, 2020

RE: Testimony in support of HB 4040 (Family Treatment Courts)

In 2009, the Legislature created the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission as an independent state agency and charged it with improving the effectiveness and efficiency of substance misuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services for all Oregonians. During the 2018 Session, the Legislature also gave the Commission the task of developing a comprehensive statewide strategic plan that identifies priorities for substance misuse prevention, treatment, and recovery supports. The Commission is currently nearing the end of its planning process and I expect to have a strategic plan submitted to the Governor and to the Legislature within the next several weeks.

While gathering information to help inform our strategic plan, I learned from our partners at the Department of Human Services that nearly 75% of foster care placements in Oregon involved a parental substance use disorder¹ (SUD). The high number of Child Welfare-involved families experiencing a SUD, along with initial strategies for how to address this problem, is included in the Commission's strategic plan. I view HB 4040's expansion of Family Treatment Courts as an effective way to serve these families, and I believe HB 4040 complements our strategic plan very well.

Ultimately, families who participate in Family Treatment Courts have higher rates of completing treatment services and staying reunified once children are reunited with their parents. Additionally, children in families participating in Family Treatment Courts typically spend less time in foster care². These are outcomes we all want to see for families and ones which we are working toward in the Commission's strategic plan. For all these reasons, I ask you to support HB 4040.

¹ 2018 Child Welfare Book, Department of Human Services

² Information from National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare