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To: Chair Sanchez  
Vice-Chairs Bynum and Sprenger  
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Shannon Rose on Behalf of Multnomah County Department of Human Services and the  
Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office

RE: HB4131: Family Preservation Project Pilot Program at Coffee Creek Correctional  
Facility

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On behalf of the Multnomah County Department of Human Services (DCHS), I submit this written testimony in support of HB4131 to establish the Family Preservation Project Pilot Program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

The Family Preservation Project has already provided critical services to assist incarcerated women overcome impacts of poverty, trauma and intergenerational involvement with the criminal justice system. This project is vital to keeping families together, safe, and stable upon re-entry from incarceration. 80% of the women who are incarcerated in Oregon are parents and the vast majority of those women report histories of trauma, including domestic and sexual violence in their lives. These individual experiences of violence are often compounded by larger cultural and systemic experiences of racism, classism, sexism, and other legacies of oppression and violence that many Oregonians have lived through.

Establishing and sufficiently funding programs that can help reduce these impacts of trauma and the additional impacts of family separation are crucial for Oregon's childrens and families. This program is a proven model for reducing recidivism, reducing the impact of parental incarceration on children, and to increase the ability for children to succeed and thrive in school and beyond. We clearly see, and research supports, that connectivity with family and personal support systems is the leading factor for the successful re-entry of women who have been incarcerated and this program is set up to facilitate that for those at Coffee Creek.

Establishing a stable and sufficient source of funding to provide these crucial support services through the Family Preservation Project will assist healing and stability for Oregon families impacted by incarceration and we urge the passage of HB 4131.

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