

March 29, 2021

Chair Frederick, Chair McLain, and Members of the Joint Ways & Means  
Subcommittee On Education

My name is Jacque Doney with Siskiyou Community Health Center – Healthy Families of Southern Oregon. Today, I am writing to ask the Oregon Legislature to increase funding for Healthy Families Oregon (HFO) for the 2021-2023 biennium. I have long been a community supporter of our local home visiting program and know they do a fantastic job helping at-risk families and encourage good parent skills. I know, however, too many families are left without these first support services. Last year, HFO served over 2,000, but almost 600 families who qualified and requested services were left out of the program due to a lack of resources and funding.

These services are even more important right now due to the ongoing pandemic that has increased new parents' stress and the recent wildfires that devastated families here in Southern Oregon, leaving many families homeless.

Please increase funding for Healthy Families Oregon by \$10 million and support the broad continuum of early childhood services by raising a total early learning spending by \$127 million over current service levels.

It is far better to invest in families early than to pay a higher price later.

Sincerely,

**Jacque Doney**  
Outreach Director

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**Siskiyou Community Health Center**

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