

Chair Lew Frederick, Chair Susan McLain

Members of the Joint Interim on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Chair Frederick, Chair McLain, and members of the Committee:

My name is Andrea, I work with *Healthy Families Oregon of Douglas, Klamath and Lake Counties* and I am writing you today to ask the Oregon Legislature to maintain full funding for Healthy Families Oregon. I am a Family Support Specialist at UCAN's Healthy Families in Douglas County. We serve approximately 50 families in Douglas County alone every year supporting them by educating them on child development, stress management, healthy conflict resolution with their children and provide essential supports during COVID-19 – navigating resources, providing curriculum and activities, mental health stability, etc.

This program is critical to the well-being of our families because we support families in navigating access to services such as OHP, SNAP, WIC, and drug and alcohol treatment, and always have families we turn away due to budget constraints.

Healthy Families is the only evidence-based, strengths-based child-serving program in Oregon that directly addresses child abuse and neglect.

As a child of a single mother in Oregon, I know that if my mother had received the support that Healthy Families Oregon provides, I would not been a survivor of child abuse. My mother would not have felt that she needed to marry an abusive man in order to provide food on the table. In addition, I would not have spent thousands of dollars and years of my life trying to overcome the years of abuse I suffered.

Thank you for your work to ensure this prevention program receives full funding. We are counting on you and other government representatives to be the voice for these high-risk families. The pay-offs are economic, will strengthen our community, and have far-reaching benefits for generations of children and their families.

Thank you.

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