

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to show support for SB 5513 and Healthy Families Oregon. My name is Leta Frampton and I have been a Healthy Families home visitor for 10 years. Through my time working with families, I have seen first-hand the impact early childhood programs have on families and the positive impact they have on children. Therefore, I am asking you to please support the Early Childhood Coalition's agenda of increasing funds to Early Learning programs. Specifically, by supporting the biennial budget of the Healthy Families Oregon program by \$10 million.

We now know that the first three years of a child's life is the most crucial for brain development and learning. The trauma of experiences from poverty, violence, racism, stress, substance abuse, and many other forms of oppression effect the adults we become without retaining conscious memories of the events. Healthy Families has been proven to help alleviate the effects of this trauma with families. Families who participate in Healthy Families have seen a decrease in child abuse and neglect. Other outcomes include better school readiness, early detection of potential learning and developmental delays, better access to health care and other community resources, and less stress in the home. These outcomes help prepare children to go into the world as adults with better mental health. In turn, these kids are more likely to graduate from high school, stay out of the prison system, be less likely to have substance use problems, and overall be more successful in life.

The babies being born today are the leaders of our future. Every baby deserves the opportunity to thrive and have the best life. Healthy Families can set the foundation for families to be successful in raising their youngest children. Thank you for your consideration of this bill. By investing in Healthy Families now, you are building a stronger future for Oregon.

Thank you for your time,
Leta Frampton