

Chair Frederick, Chair McLain, and members of the Committee,
My name is Toni Brase' with Healthy Families of Douglas County Oregon, 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 & Eligibility Screener. We serve families every year navigating a variety of challenges from, Medical, Financial, Mental health, Housing / food insecurities, Education disparities, Transportation & Early childhood Traumas and still always have families we turn away.

Our focus is on reducing child abuse & neglect. We offer referrals to community partners that our families may not otherwise know about or how to access. Giving the mother of a child that has difficult behavioral issues, encouragement, support & much needed resources to things like Early Intervention & child care, can be the difference between a safe nurturing relationship & one that the parent feels alone & without options, putting the entire family at a higher risk of domestic violence.

This program is critical to the wellbeing of our families, to enable them the skill set to advance their lives. Not just giving solutions, but teaching the critical skills to handle life as it comes. How to access resources when you need them, whether that be a ride from a neighbor, how to find a good mechanic, or how the process of getting a car loan looks. We want to work ourselves out of them needing us.

It is said, it takes a village to raise a child. This is your opportunity to be a member of a wonderful village, filled with the children that are looking to us to learn how to be the healthy village of the future.

Toni Brase'
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"The best education does not happen at a desk,
But rather engaged in everyday living, hands on
Exploring, in active relationship with life."

-Vince Gowman-

cc: Joint Ways & Means Chairs Betsy Johnson, Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, and Dan Rayfield
Governor Kate Brown
Senate President Peter Courtney
House Speaker Tina Kotek
Senate Minority Leader Fred Girod
House Minority Leader Christine Drazen
Senior Senator Ron Wyden
Junior Senator Jeff Merkley
Congressman Peter DeFazio
Congressman Greg Walden