

Sherrie Farrar
251 NE Garden Valley Blvd. Suite N
Roseburg, OR 97470
April 22, 2021

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 Sherrie Farrar, 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 parents 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, child neglect, child abuse or even the death of a child.

This program is critical to the wellbeing of at risk families, to enable them the skill set to advance their lives, and help them see a different path. Not just giving solutions, but nurturing 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.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Farrar
Healthy Families Oregon
UCAN-Douglas County
Family Support Specialist

Cc:Governor Kate Brown
Senate President Peter Courtney
House Speaker Tina Kotek
Senate Minority Leader Fred Girod
House Minority Leader Christine Drazan
Senior Senator Ron Wyden Junior Senator Jeff Merkley
Congressman Peter DeFazio
Congressman Greg Walden