

Submitter: Erin Fox

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Human Services

Measure: HB4079

As a lifetime Oregonian who was born in a low-income family and has struggled to make ends meet my whole life, I know firsthand how powerful a program like this could be. These kinds of programs have been successfully tested in many other countries, and the fears (that people won't want to work anymore, that it will negatively affect those who are living barely above the poverty line like myself, etc.) have been repeatedly disproved through that research. This program is designed specifically to help foster youth and low-income pregnant mothers, two groups of people who are working extremely hard against many unfair disadvantages just to try and make a life for themselves and their families. Anyone who thinks that \$750 a month is enough to prevent someone from having to work is extremely out of touch with the cost of basic needs like rent, childcare, food, and transportation. We need to be testing innovative solutions like this if we want to improve our communities. To refuse to try something like this, in a moment when so many of our community members are struggling, would run antithetical to the values I believe the Committee on Human Services should be upholding.