



February 21, 2022

Oregon House of Representatives  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
House Committee On Health Care

Re: Support of SB 1555

Dear Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and Members Leon, Campos, Dexter, Moore-Green, Noble, Schouten, Weber:

**Oregon National Organization for Women (Oregon NOW)** is submitting this letter in support of SB1555 moving forward in the Oregon Legislature in the best interests of women in Oregon.

Many sound studies have evaluated high-quality home visiting programs for newborns and have shown positive impacts on reducing incidences of child abuse and neglect, improvement in birth outcomes such as decreased pre-term births and low-birthweight babies, improved school readiness for children and increased high school graduation rates for mothers participating in the program. Cost-benefit analyses show that high quality home visiting programs offer returns on investment ranging from \$1.75 to \$5.70 for every dollar spent due to reduced costs of child protection, K-12 special education and grade retention, and criminal justice expenses. That information is from the website National Conference of State Legislators, Home visiting: Improving Outcomes for Children, 5/24/2021. This information confirms what we may intuitively believe that appropriate care in the beginning of a child's life, improves the child's health and welfare and saves taxpayers from paying for supports later in life that could have been avoided. We at NOW believe this bill would not only improve outcomes for a child's quality of life and save tax payers money, but also improves the health of mothers and families. We urge you to support SB 1555.

Thank you!

Respectfully,

Christine Chin Ryan  
President  
Oregon NOW

Kim Critelli  
Legislative Co-Chair  
Oregon NOW

Nancy Cook  
Legislative Co-Chair  
Oregon NOW