



Oregon Women's Rights Coalition

## HB 2731- Family Preservation Project at Coffee Creek – Support

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Wallan and members of the committee

The Oregon Women's Rights Coalition stands firmly behind the proposal in this legislation. We have a history regarding this project. Our connection goes back to the 2015 session. Normally advocates call upon legislators for support. In our case, then Senator Chip Shields called to invite me to a meeting. At that meeting those attending heard about a small project at Coffee Creek to help female inmates who were mothers maintain contact with their children.(SB 939) The Division of Corrections had started the program in 2010 but funding was always dependent on the budget. We heard about the success of the program, but the program needed stable funding.

Over the years, every two or three years, we hear of the success of the program. And every time, we must fight for funding for the program. In 2020 some of the elements of the program were changed necessitated by the pandemic. In 2021 funding was allocated as part of HB5006.

“SECTION 8. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Fund appropriation made to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission by section 1, chapter \_\_\_\_, Oregon Laws 2021 (Enrolled House Bill 5005), for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, is increased by \$650,000, for the Family Preservation Project operated by the YWCA of Greater Portland.

We are hopeful that with this structure of a “pilot program” the Family Preservation Project will receive stable funding, meaningful oversight, and provide the state with more robust research records. We know after 13 years the concept works. The Family Preservation Project needs consistent, robust, and stable funding.

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