



March 2, 2023

Good morning, Chairs Fredrick and McLane and members of the Joint Ways & Means Education Sub Committee. For the record, my name is Nina Monstwilllo.

I am the Supervisor for Healthy Families of Benton County.

I am honored to be here today, especially since my experience with Healthy Families first occurred 18 years ago as a single parent in Indiana receiving home-visits from an incredible home-visitor.

Through the help of these types of programs, I was able to get my bachelor's degree in 2012. After graduation, I was soon hired as a home-visitor for Healthy Families in Indiana. I moved to Oregon in 2016 and continued working for the next 8 years as a home-visitor for Healthy Families of Benton County. In 2021, I started my new role as Supervisor.

I only share this story with you because I have seen how much this program impacts lives and how valuable the work is that we do with families during these first few priceless years of infant development.

I ask you to take into consideration, while listening to our testimonies, to remember that recent studies have shown that Healthy Families America has demonstrated* the return on the investment for every dollar invested - there is a return of \$1.46, and for families involved in child welfare the return rises to \$3.16.

*Return on Investment Healthy Families America Brief

<https://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/HFA-ROI-Brief.pdf>

Yet, our program currently serves less than 20 percent of those families qualifying for and requesting services.

We are asking for funding of \$800K for a database system which would be compatible across the state and help us process data required by Healthy Families America in order to retain accreditation and to provide policy makers and agencies with information on the status of HFO.



Healthy Families
Oregon™

Now is the time for the leaders of this state to rise to this moment and fund the agency, supply the tools and staff, and to fund the DELC programs at the levels necessary to serve those most at need in our state. As I have seen in my own life, by funding early childhood programs, families will thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nina Monstwilllo, BS

Supervisor/Home-Visitor

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