Submitter: Kassandra Moore

On Behalf

Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human

Services

Measure: SB5525

Dear Co-Chair Campos, Co-Chair Valderrama, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services,

My name is Kassandra Moore and I am writing to ask that the Subcommittee on Human Services appropriate funding to provide the non-federal matching funding needed for Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) programs to receive Medicaid reimbursement across the state.

NFP is an evidence-based community health program with 45 years of evidence showing significant improvement in the health and lives of first-time parents and their children facing economic and social barriers. NFP has operated in Oregon since 1999. NFP works by having specially trained nurses regularly visit young, first-time parents-to be, starting early in the pregnancy and continuing through the child's second birthday. With the support of an NFP nurse, families are able to see better pregnancy outcomes, improved child health and development, and greater economic self-sufficiency. Parents, babies, families, and communities all benefit from the proven services of NFP.

I joined the program when I was 12 weeks pregnant. I was suffering immensely with anxiety and health issues. The comfort my home nurse brought to our home was life changing. She set me up with tools, activities, and programs that filled my cup. We did parenting classes, trauma healing work, play dates, and so much more. My family gives our nurse so much credit for setting us up for success. She even came to the hospital when my baby was born premature and helped me learn to nurse when we were struggling. My husband and I frequently say that our nurse was our saving grace. Without NFP I'm not sure how successful I would be and feel in my parenting. Being apart of NFP has been the greatest asset to my mental health journey.

NFP programs in Oregon rely on Medicaid to pay for their services to families, but Medicaid requires non-federal match funding that is currently being paid by the county health departments. This funding arrangement creates a threat to the sustainability of NFP in counties implementing the program. Also, counties that cannot pay the match funding are unable to implement an NFP program. This creates unequal access to the beneficial outcomes of this program.

I support NFP's request for \$8 million from the General Fund to provide the non-federal Medicaid match for NFP programs. This funding would be appropriated to the

Health Systems Division of the Oregon Health Authority. This will allow NFP programs in Oregon more certainty to provide services and would help NFP continue expanding to counties that do not have programs.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your consideration of this request.