



**Mission:** Empower Oregon families experiencing disability in their pursuit of a whole life by expanding awareness, growing community, and equipping families.

March 10, 2023

Co-Chair Campos

Co-Chair Valderrama

Members of the Senate Committee on Education

**RE: Support of SB 5525 – Support funding for Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)**

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

FACT Oregon is a family-led nonprofit that works toward a future where communities are accessible, inclusive, and empower the self-determination of people with disabilities. We support families, youth with disabilities, and partners to hold high expectations, navigate special education and disability systems and advocate for the supports needed to thrive at home, in school, and in community.

FACT Oregon supports the 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 can 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.

As an organization that supports families that have children with disabilities, we know that identifying suspected delays early, referrals to early intervention services and connections to peer-delivered support can set a positive trajectory for families and children.

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.

**FACT Oregon supports NFP programs** and believes this funding 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 considering this testimony.

Christy Reese, Executive Director

FACT Oregon