

Submitter: Susan Pinnock
On Behalf Of: Nurse Family Partnership
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 Susan Pinnock. I am a nurse and nursing supervisor in Washington county 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.

We started an NFP program in Washington County in 2016 and have been very successful with one expansion and the need to expand again. During the pandemic this program was more vital than ever as families were seen mostly virtually by their providers, we returned to home visiting as soon as we were vaccinated and provided much more in-depth support to these families. We saw changes and successes where other families were struggling.

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. Our families move around a lot so are often disappointed when they move to a neighboring or nearly neighboring county like Clackamas, Marion and Columbia and are not able to continue NFP there. These counties need help meeting the match to have any hope of offering NFP.

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.

Thank you for your help to move the work of NFP forward in the state so that more families can benefit! Please reach out to matthew.richardson@nursefamilypartnership.org with any questions or issues.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely, Susan S. Pinnock