

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, members of the committee,

My name is RaeAnn Butler, and I am the executive director for Baker Relief Nursery, serving Baker County and the neighboring city of North Powder. As a certified Relief Nursery, we serve the most at-risk children and families in our community by providing them wraparound support through therapeutic classrooms for infants/toddlers/preschoolers, individualized home visits, parent education, connection to resources, and emergency services (diaper bank, clothing closet, food pantry, and transportation support). Our priority is to lessen stress for the families we work with to strengthen the bond between parents and children, and create a positive outcome for all involved - keeping children safe and families together.

It takes quality staff and financial stability to provide these much needed resources to families that need it the most. Costs have continued to rise, making it challenging to provide the level of service that we feel is most needed. Across the state, Relief Nurseries serve 2300 children each year. To continue this, the cost is an additional \$5.3 million. To serve more children (approximately 855 children), we need an additional \$15.8 million. As a Relief Nursery, we will match these funds with \$4-6 million in private fundraising efforts and by engaging our local communities.

Please say yes to SB 5506! It takes a village to raise our children. Communities throughout Oregon will thank you!

Sincerely,

RaeAnn Butler
Executive Director



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