

Submitter: Laurel Case
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Joint Ways & Means Education Sub Committee
Testimony – HB 5013
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 _Laurel Case__.

I am the Healthy Families Oregon. (HFO) _home visitor_ for _Healthy Families of the High Desert..

As a voluntary statewide accredited home visiting program for families pre-natal to age 3, Healthy Families Oregon has been serving families for over 30 years starting in 1992.

Tell about your program. Explain challenges of staffing and salary.
If parent, tell the committee what Healthy Families has done for you and your family.

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

It is an exciting time for Oregon. It is not often that a new agency is created in a state. Now, at the start-up of the agency is when the right size investments should be made for its success and for the success of Oregon's families. While we support the investments the Governor has made in her budget for the new Department of Early Learning and Care, there are still investments that need to be made over and above the GRB.

1. We respectfully ask for a \$15M increase in the DELC budget for Healthy Families Oregon to:
 - a. Increase salaries to a level that is in line with other early learning programs and provides stability in retention of staff .(\$2.3M pay parity left out of the GRB from 2023 increase, \$10M for additional pay increases)
 - b. Purchase a database system (\$800,000) as required for program integrity and accreditation.
 - c. Increase present HFO state staffing by at least 4 new positions (\$1M) to come closer to the levels needed for a program of this size and.
 - d. Provide funding for HFO to open in Lincoln County (\$1.2M).

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. By funding early childhood programs, families will thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.