

Submitter: Heidi Linn  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Heidi Linn and I am writing to ask that the Joint Ways and Means Committee 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 have been an NFP nurse with Washington County since 2020 and feel very proud of the work we have done with families through the pandemic serving as a lifeline to already isolated moms and babies providing support to navigate the health care system, mental health support, connecting to domestic violence resources, connecting to basic needs such as rent assistance food and clothing in partnership with families to meet their goal for their children to thrive.

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.