

Submitter: Holly Lange

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB4105

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Scharf, and members of the committee, my name is Holly Lange.

I am a former Nurse-Family Partnership home visiting nurse, having retired at the end of June last year. I worked in Deschutes County in this program for 8 years, and also did shorter stints in Lane County and in Sonoma County, California. I loved NFP and saw the powerful life-changing effects it had on my clients. The frequency of visits, supportive strength-based approach, and depth of trust and connection with clients are part of the effectiveness of NFP.

Here are some anecdotes that illustrate some of the positive outcomes for my clients:

A client who had a history of IV substance abuse and homelessness, maintained her sobriety throughout the over 2 years in NFP. She and her partner moved from his parents' garage to their own apartment and she got her driver license back. She got a part-time job and quit smoking tobacco.

A client with a very traumatic childhood, and no family support, was able to bond with her baby and breast feed him for two years. She found the courage to engage with counseling to resolve some of her symptoms of PTSD. She and her partner moved into a Habitat home six months after graduating from NFP, and are providing their son a stable, loving home.

A client who is DACA eligible, completed her GED during her time in NFP. She learned positive parenting skills which contributed to her son's healthy development, and her own sense of self-esteem and self-efficacy. She has goals to attend college.

A client suddenly developed high blood pressure in her third trimester of pregnancy. I happened to visit her during this spike in BP and helped connect her to emergency medical care. Her symptoms became life-threatening for her and the fetus, and she was helicoptered to Portland. Because I had been in her home that day and detected the down-turn in her health, she and the fetus survived and suffered no long-term effects from this.

Sadly, Deschutes County Health Services no longer offers the NFP program to our first-birth families. This is a huge loss for vulnerable first-time moms in our community! My understanding is that budget constraints were a big part of the reason

NFP was cut. That is why I support HB 4105 whole-heartedly!
Thanks for your time.