

Submitter: Robin Nelson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB4105

I am submitting this written testimony to share my support for HB 4105, which would appropriate funding for Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) home visiting services in Oregon.

NFP services are proven to lead to improved pregnancy outcomes, improved child development, and improved economic self-sufficiency for families. Parents, babies, families, and communities all benefit.

The NFP programs in Oregon rely on federal Medicaid funding to pay for services to families, but Medicaid requires non-federal match funding to get the federal dollars. This match is currently being paid by the county health departments operating NFP programs.

Requiring the counties to pay the non-federal Medicaid match threatens the sustainability of current programs and limits where NFP services can be offered in the state. This creates unequal access to critical services and beneficial outcomes. Also, having counties pay the match puts NFP out of alignment with how nearly all Medicaid services and evidence-based home visiting programs in Oregon are supported by state dollars.

I support HB 4105 and encourage members of the committee to advance this legislation. This would greatly strengthen the sustainability of existing NFP programs and lay the foundation for more communities to offer NFP services to families in the future.