

Submitter: Megan Dunn
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1167

Honorable Senators and Staff,

My name is Megan Dunn, and I am a resident of Marion County and an Infant Feeding Specialist (IBCLC) and Lactation Consultant. I am writing to express my full support for SB1167, which proposes to allocate critical funding and resources to support families and ensure the healthy development of children in Oregon during the crucial first 1,000 days of life.

I have personally worked with county level Maternal Childhood Nursing programs like Family Connects, CoCoon, and the Early Childhood Learning Hub. I can attest to the critical importance of these programs in ensuring healthy parent/child bonding, development of long term health, and well-being. As a health care provider, I have seen firsthand how critical these resources are in shaping the health and well-being of Oregon's children and families.

Studies show that countries that fail to invest in the well-being of women and children in the first 1,000 days lose billions of dollars to lower economic productivity and higher health costs. The CDC estimates that the United States loses \$13 billion annual from lack of breastfeeding alone - the total financial impact of support and education in the first 1,000 days of life is astronomical!

I urge you to support SB1167 and make this investment in our state's future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan Dunn, BS, IBCLC, RLC, C-NDLS