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THE BFD REPORT



from Family Forward Action

{{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

We have SO MUCH to celebrate this month! Spring is in the air, an extremely qualified, progressive [Black woman is being interviewed to join the Supreme Court](#), [COVID cases are trending down in Oregon](#), [a vaccine for kids under five is on the horizon](#), our annual [Dance Like a Mother](#) party is back...and we passed eight of our nine legislative priorities for mothers and caregivers thanks to your support and advocacy!

This is a happy time and YOU made it possible. We've been through so much these last few years...it feels *really good* to have some wins.

YOUR WINS

- We passed 8/9 of our legislative priorities for Oregon moms and caregivers! See a breakdown of the bills below.

YOUR IMPACT

When we work together, we win big. Your phone calls, emails, social media posts, and visits with lawmakers made a huge impact for Oregon moms and caregivers this month. Here's a breakdown of what you helped pass:

Secured nearly \$100M in emergency response for Oregon's child care crisis

Our priority budget asks included \$21 million for direct relief payments of \$500 each to currently-working child care workers, one payment in 2022 and one in 2023; \$39.3 million to recruit and train new child care providers, and provided direct grants to expand existing facilities of all types; and \$3.6 million for the Department of Early Learning & Care to make our public child care system more equitable and beneficial for parents and providers.

Strengthened our public child care system (HB 4005)

Increased the amount of money providers who accept Employment Related Daycare (ERDC) subsidies receive per child, so that the true cost of care is closer to be covered, and increased purchasing power for parents who utilize ERDC.

Ensured equity in Paid Family & Medical Leave implementation (SB 1515)

Clarified the state and employers' definitions for "benefit year" to ensure they aligned and made it easier for workers to access PFML. The process will now be more efficient and better cover workers with multiple employers.

Improved outcomes for incarcerated women and mothers (HB 4146)

Women are the fastest growing population in state and federal prisons. At Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, 80% of incarcerated women are mothers and they need tailored services that are trauma-informed and culturally responsive. Without it, prisons continue cycles of trauma, and harm among incarcerated women and the impacts ripple across our communities. By requiring a gender responsive study at CCCF, we can improve conditions for incarcerated women and mothers.

Secured direct payments to low income families (HB 4157)

Working families need support to keep pace and pay for essential needs like child care, housing, food, and utilities. HB 4157 provides eligible individuals a one time payment of \$600 by check or direct deposit. While there is much more to do to bring about economic and racial justice for low wage workers, these payments are a starting point to help families economically recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Increased justice for immigrant Oregonians (SB 1543)

We improved Oregon's legal system by making it more just and inclusive for immigrants. Building off a multi-year pilot program, Universal Legal Representation expands services through the use of massive collaborative representation, community-based lawyering, and client empowerment.

Won overtime pay for Oregon's farmworkers (HB 4002)

In a year of pandemic, catastrophic fires and dangerous levels of air quality, farmworkers continued to work and make sure we have food available. Through the passage of Farmworker Overtime, Oregon demonstrated its commitment to farmworkers' economic security.

Continued to transform Oregon's justice system so we can all feel safe (SB 1510)

Oregon can only be safe when our public safety system is designed to keep all of us safe. Like most states across the country, Oregon's public safety system was designed to uphold white supremacy. By passing SB 1510, we're one step closer to creating a public safety system that truly provides justice and safety to all. SB 1510 reduces unnecessary interactions with law enforcement that increase risks of excessive force and violence, improve success for people on probation and parole, and fund services that reduce racial disparities prevalent in Oregon's criminal justice system.

STILL FIGHTING FOR:

A more equitable & representative legislature (SB 1566)

Our state representatives have low annual salaries that do not reflect a living wage. Raising the salaries of state legislators would create more opportunities for Oregonians who are low-income, young, BIPOC, and caregivers to run for office. Even though we didn't win this one this year, we successfully re-shaped the policy to add a child care allowance for parents of kids under 13 – helping to remove barriers around childcare access for our state representatives. We hear too often from our community members that they can't run for office without these changes and we will keep fighting for them next year.

For such a short legislative session this year we created major changes that will have impacts for generations to come. YOU made that possible.

That's a BFD.

Until next month,



Amy Hojnowski
Development Director
Family Forward Oregon & Family Forward Action

P.S. We're excited to come together and celebrate moms and caregivers with you on Saturday, May 14 at Holocene Portland. Tickets go on presale on Monday, April 4! This event sells out pretty fast, so make sure to [sign up for ticket alerts](#).

Remembering Katie Reitel

It is with tremendous sadness that we share that a dear friend and past colleague, [Katie Reitel](#), recently passed away after a long battle with cancer.

Katie started her work with us years ago when we were just getting started as an organization, as an intern while she was pursuing dual Masters degrees in social work and public health at Portland State University. She continued to work with us as a volunteer and leader long after she graduated and even while she was dealing with major health issues.



Katie was hilarious and a joy to work with—always willing to jump in to help in any way she could. Please join us in sending love to her beloved son, Teddy; her husband, Matt; her mom, Liz; her father, Greg; her brother, Steven; and the many other friends and family whose lives she made better. We will miss you, Katie.



{{Disclaimer}}

Family Forward

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