

**NOTES:**

- *Be sure to use your own letterhead and create a PDF copy of your letter to send.*
- *You may modify the text below to fit your purposes.*

[Insert date]

The Honorable [Insert title of senator or representative, first name, and last name]  
Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation Committee *(if emailing the committee)*  
[insert senator's address]

Dear Senator Darneille and Members of Senate Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation, [or insert the first and last name of your representative]

I am writing as a [member of the National Council on Family Relations, or Certified Family Life Educator, or other role] in support of **WA HB 1237 Defining Family Resource Centers**. The National Council on Family Relations is the premier professional association for the understanding of families through interdisciplinary research, theory, and practice. NCFR provides ethical and professional standards to which Certified Family Life Educators, the Family Science discipline, and family professionals must adhere and is the only organization across the country to provide certification for Family Life Educators.

NCFR supports HB 1237 because it recognizes the importance of family resource centers in supporting and strengthening families and communities. **I encourage you to include Family Life Educators in this bill as potential staff in family resource centers and as family advocates.** Family Life Educators are trained in the discipline of [Family Science](#) and to specifically address topics identified in HB 1237 including parenting education, child development, family budgeting and decision-making, coping with stress, interpersonal relationships, communication, and more. It may be of value to know that Family Life Educators were recently recognized in the state of Utah as a person who can provide premarital counseling or education. See [https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title30/Chapter1/30-1-S34.html?v=C30-1-S34\\_1800010118000101](https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title30/Chapter1/30-1-S34.html?v=C30-1-S34_1800010118000101).

Family Life Educators are uniquely qualified to develop, administer, and deliver the programs and services provided through family resource centers. Family Life Educators provide support and empower families to apply knowledge about healthy family functioning to prevent or minimize problems, an approach that is included within your identified core principles for family resource centers. Their training and experience include program implementation and evaluation as well as the ability to screen and assess a family's needs and strengths and partner with families to establish family goals for greater self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Their work is grounded in an understanding of family systems and dynamics and recognition of the inherent strength of families to help themselves, while also understanding that families may benefit from voluntary preventive or enriching support. Recognition of and sensitivity to race, ethnicity, and culture is also a core component of the preparation of Family Life Educators.

The core principles of the practice of Family Life Education align closely with the core principles for family resource centers identified in HB 1237. Family Life Education is the practice of equipping and empowering family members to develop knowledge and skills that enhance well-being and strengthen interpersonal relationships through an educational, preventive, and strengths-based approach. The goal of Family Life Education is to teach these skills and knowledge areas to family members across the lifespan and foster positive individual and family development so families can function optimally.

Thank you for supporting HB 1237 and for considering the inclusion of Family Life Educators as identified providers of the programs and services offered through family resource centers. Please contact **include your name and contact information here** for additional information or assistance when discussing this bill.

[Insert your name]

[Insert your name/credentials]

[Insert your professional title]

[Insert your mailing address]

[Insert your email address]

[Insert your phone number]

cc'd: Chair Darneille, Vice Chair Nguyen, Senator Gildon, Senator Dozier, Senator McCune, Senator Saldana, and Senator Wilson C: *(delete if you are sending the letter to only one person)*

Attached: PDF of this letter. *(only include if you attach a PDF)*