



COALITION OF ADVOCATES
FOR EQUAL ACCESS
FOR GIRLS

March 13, 2015

Our mission is to ensure that girls receive equal access to all of the appropriate Gender-specific support and services they need to help them develop to their full potential.

To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing
From: Pam Patton, Coalition of Advocates for Equal Access for Girls
Re: Support of HB 2890, Age Appropriate Extracurricular Activities

On behalf of the Coalition of Advocates for Equal Access for Girls it is our pleasure to support the Oregon Foster Youth Connection with the promotion for the passage of House Bill 2890. The Coalition as an all-volunteer advocacy organization that has been a voice for system involved girls and young women since 1993, also believes that the 8,000 girls and boys in Oregon's foster care system deserve the opportunity to participate with their peers, develop their talents, and build lifelong relationships. Research shows that children participating in after-school activities grow to be better-adjusted and more productive adults. Age-Appropriate Extracurricular Activities will provide youth with a sense of normalcy, fight depression, build self esteem, provide youth with supportive relationships with adults and can lead to scholarship opportunities and improve job applications. **HB 2890** will ensure that State agencies and foster parents work together to support youth in joining at least one extracurricular activity.

We urge you to pass House Bill 2890.

Thank you,

Pam

Pam Patton, Coalition State and National Liaison

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