PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY   CARRIER:
Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued
SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: Ways and Means

Action:
Vote:
        Yeas:
        Nays:
        Exc.:
Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/10, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Appropriates General Fund dollars to construct Boys & Girls Club in Rockwood area of Gresham. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
   • Loss of youth programs and supports in Rockwood
   • Critical need for services in Rockwood area as compared to other areas
   • Local efforts to bring services back, where need is greatest
   • Extended number of services available to youth through Boys & Girls Clubs
   • Collateral benefits of presence of Boys & Girls Club; potential for shared community facility
   • Boys & Girls Clubs successful track record
   • State should assist its neediest youth; whole state benefits from investment in Rockwood youth

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: The Rockwood area of Gresham lost a number of support program for local youth in 2013, when its PAL Center closed (Police Activities League) due to financial difficulties. Rockwood is sadly distinguished by having the highest concentration of at-risk youth; the highest crime rate; the lowest level of academic achievement; the highest unemployment; and the lowest tax base. The need for services amplified with the loss of the PAL center and local efforts have been focused on restoring services. Boys & Girls Clubs boast successful track records, both in terms of their stability and positive influence on youth. In addition, a Boys & Girls Club acts like an "anchor store" or "key store" in a shopping mall: its presence leverages more services through partnerships with traditional schools, alternative schools, nonprofit organizations and others. Fundraising to establish a Boys & Girls Club is underway, and through Senate Bill 500, the people of Rockwood are asking their neighbors in state of Oregon to invest.

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.
Committee Services Form – 2015 Regular Session