



TO: The Oregon Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood
From: Willard Burks, Executive Director, YMCA Camp Collins
Date: May 13, 2015
RE: Testimony I Support of HB 3292

Chairf Sara Gelser, Member of the Committee, my name is Willard Burks and I am the Executive Director of YMCA Camp Collins located in Gresham Oregon since 1924. In 2014 we served over 1800 children through our summer camp overnight and day programs and another 9,500 youth, adults and families in over 175 rental groups during the year. I submit my testimony today in support of HB 3292, which will clarify in statute the role and relationship between camp facilities and the programs they run from rental of the camp facility to outside groups.

In addition to the thousands of youth that come to YMCA Camp Collins, we host a large number of groups who bring in their own programing. We are not unusual. Essentially all camp in the United States host some rental groups who run their own programs. This structure is necessary to meet the operating cost of owning and running a camp site, but it does create some risk when you allow other organizations to come in and run a program on your site, . School and church groups and many others make up the type of renters of a camp. Camp owners take seriously the importance of defining landlord/renter roles and responsibilities with our rental contracts. While camps are willing to be responsible for the programs and participants who are under their control, it is problematic for camps to be assigned complete liability for al the groups who rent their facilities and run their own programs.

YMCA Camp Collins supports the bill. I have been involved over the with camping colleagues over the years to address issues similar to this. HB3292 will clarify in statute the role of camps and those who rent our facilities.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony into record today.

Sincerely,

Willard Burks
Executive Director
YMCA Camp Collins