



February 12, 2016

Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 1545 Creation of Children's Service Districts

Dear Chair Hass and Members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee:

We are writing today to express City of Beaverton's opposition to SB1545, which would authorize creation of children's service districts. We do not need another taxing district to provide youth services already available in our community.

In Beaverton, we have a wide variety of after school programs available for students. Beaverton's Police Activities League (PAL) provides creative and fun school programs including the Fitness Training Room program which offers boxing and dancing programs; Intel Computer Club House program where kids can explore the use of technology in creative ways including computer animation, website design, music composition and video editing; Arts and Crafts room; and IBM Learning Center, a computer center and education room that includes Chess Club, Homework Club and Science Corner.

Our two libraries are a cultural hub for children and teens on a daily basis. We host regular events, activities and programs, including the Homework Help program for after school assistance. In calendar year 2015 alone, we hosted 2,122 programs for children from birth to teens, attended by 75,683 people. In addition, Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District also provides a wide array of activities for youth in our community.

We agree on the importance of children's services, but creating another special district that will duplicate services already provided with taxpayer support is not necessary and could be problematic for our taxing system. If this new district resulted in a loss of Washington County Cooperative Library Services levy receipts, we could find ourselves in the very odd position of having to apply to the children's district for those lost funds.

We urge your no vote on SB 1545. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Randy Ealy
Chief Administrative Officer


Abigail Elder
Library Director