From: Erin Hubert
To: JWMED Exhibits

Subject: Please do not cut Youth Development Council funding

Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 5:17:41 PM

This letter is in support of retaining current Youth Development Council funding levels that supports so many critically important youth development services, programs and initiatives. Thousands of young lives just at Boys & Girls Clubs alone across our great state are impacted daily in countless positive ways thanks to YDC support. Whether it's academic support; learning about STEM or tech; working in art, including performing arts; participating in programs that build character and leadership traits; learning how to get a job and providing first jobs for teens; and learning from mentors who are game changing in their lives, YDC is supporting transformative changes in youth who face barriers and inequities that can keep them from realizing a bright future.

There aren't nearly enough resources to address the huge needs underserved youth face in Oregon. With one of the lowest graduation rates in the country, it's imperative that we not lose any of the precious few resources that we have, such as YDC support, to help our youth overcome barriers and risk factors that can impede their success.

Organizations like Boys & Girls Clubs, and many other youth development organizations who are supported by the YDC, are saving lives every day and ensuring thousands of youth are on a path to becoming functioning, contributing adults.

If the YDC funding is cut, that means thousands of youth are in jeopardy of losing these critically needed services.

This is a painful time for our legislature as you have so many important needs to consider against a very large budget deficit. Investing in our youth to ensure a functioning, thriving state for all of us is a fundamental we can't live without. Please do not cut YDC funding in this decision making process. Thank you.

Sincerely – Erin Hubert

Erin Hubert, CEO

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