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Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee:

I'm writing today in support of House Bill 3191 and its goals of preventing summer learning loss. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland launched a focused summer learning loss program called Summer Brain Gain in the summer of 2014. In affiliation with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the program was launched to address the alarming effects we were seeing on our youth specifically related to summer learning loss. We have seen amazing results with the program, which has not only stemmed learning loss but has yielded learning gains.

When we launched Summer Brain Gain three years ago, we weren't sure what to expect other than we hoped to cut the learning loss that we know happens during summers for less advantaged youth. That first summer, we measured participating youth at the beginning of the summer and then again at the end of the summer. Not only was their learning loss reduced, we saw an actual 2% learning gain. In the following summer of 2015, we saw an average gain of 1%; and last summer, after continued fine-tuning of the curriculum, we saw an average of a 10% learning gain. We have been ecstatic with these results and are looking for ways to incorporate one of our program partners SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) into this summer's Brain Gain program, along with specific STEM projects, to enrich it even further.

We believe that summer learning loss with disadvantaged youth is a strong contributing factor to the low graduation rates in Oregon and why we're seeing increasingly more children give up on school as they enter into their middle school years. This is a critical area on which to focus for strong results, and we strongly advocate for, and applaud, House Bill 3191.

With so many important needs to consider against a very large budget deficit, this is a difficult time for our State and our elected officials. Investing in our youth to ensure a functioning, thriving state for all of us is a fundamental we can't live without. Please continue to keep support this important Bill. Thank you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Hubert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "H".

Erin Hubert
CEO/Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan