

OregonASK

Expanded Learning Partnership

Submitted in reference to SB 123 of the 2017 Legislative Session

June 15th, 2017

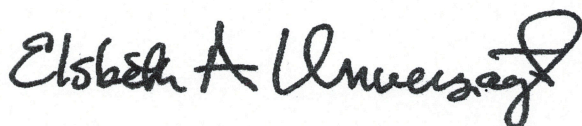
Dear Chair Barnhart and House Committee On Revenue,

My name is Beth Unverzagt, the Executive Director for OregonASK Expanded Learning Partnership for over 12 years. I am writing because as the statewide afterschool network, OregonASK continues to work to develop ways to financially sustain out of school time programs and build collaborative partnerships. We work to support local, regional and state efforts that build partnerships and systems that will be able to support communities in providing afterschool and summer programs to all youth. We care deeply about all Oregon youth, particularly those who fall within the opportunity gap and find themselves in need of services and support beyond the normal school day.

When children spend about 80% of their waking hours out of school, low-income students without access to expanded learning opportunities often fall behind their middle class peers. We know that every student needs ongoing opportunities to learn and practice the essential skills required to find success in school and life. We also know that in our economically diverse state, not all families have the ability or access to these needed resources and opportunities.

Afterschool and Summer programs are one of the most cost-efficient ways to provide students with hands-on, real-world learning experiences that can help eliminate the growing achievement gap as we build a more capable society. We support the building of a creative, diversified funding model that can support expanded learning opportunities across the state on a systematic level.

Sincerely,



Beth Unverzagt, Executive Director OregonASK Expanded Learning Partnership



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