



NEIGHBORS FOR KIDS

Kids Zone Afterschool Program * Literacy Education Enrichment Program
USDA Food Program * Music Lessons * Science * Visual Arts * Computer Technology
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NFK PROGRAMS:
Kids Zone Program
Literacy Ed. Program
USDA Food Program
Music Lessons
Science Education
Visual Arts
Computer Technology
CATCH Health & Sports
Teen Program
Rowing Club

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February 7, 2019

Oregon Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
Oregon House Revenue Committee

Re: Senate Bill 543
Dear Oregon Legislative Assembly,

This letter is being provided by Neighbors For Kids (NFK), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in the rural coastal town of Depoe Bay, Oregon. Our organization began in 1999 and our founder and board members truly believe that children need a safe place to go and constructive things to do when their families are unable to care for them after school and during the summer. We are in full support of Senate Bill 543 and the formation of Children's Service District's because there is a great need for sustainable funding for organization's who support the education, well-being and healthy development of Oregon's youngest residents.

Current Status of Children Served:

NFK serves children ages 3-18 from throughout Lincoln County. The population consists of families with low socio-economics, many whom are experiencing homelessness and hunger/food instability, children with special needs (mental health, behavioral/emotional challenges, learning and intellectual disabilities), youth in the foster care system and 3-5 year old children in need of child care and Kindergarten-readiness programming. NFK also serves a growing number of families from diverse ethnic backgrounds, including Hispanic, Native American and bi-racial youth. These under-served populations are in great need of support.

Impact of Senate Bill 543:

Support from Children's Services Districts would enable our non-profit and fellow youth-serving organizations to continue fulfilling our missions with much-needed sustainable funding, making a positive impact on the lives of thousands of children across the state of Oregon. For many who cannot obtain stable funding sources it would mean closing their doors, leaving communities without out-of-school-time programs and safe-havens for youth. SB543, if passed, would help future generations of Oregonians reach their full potential.

Example from program:

There is a significant shortage of child care and early childhood programs available to families in the region, who depend on these support systems to maintain their employment and help their young children during these critical years of development. Across the state of Oregon, many children enter Kindergarten lacking core academic skills and interpersonal skills. NFK launched a preschool in 2018 to respond to this need, but funding is required to sustain and grow this program, such as dollars generated from a Children's Services District.

"Neighbors For Kids is an equal opportunity provider"
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