

February 14, 2019

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 543 – Children’s Service Districts

Chair Hass and Senators,

Children First for Oregon represents the interests of Oregon’s 880,000 children and believes that together, with communities and leaders across the state, we can build a state where all children thrive.

Listed in ORS 198.010, there are 27 service district options for voters so they may fund critical local services. With districts dealing with water, fire protection, cemetery maintenance and many others, we believe it only makes sense to include an option for voters to meet the needs of children in their area. In every part of the state, we see the lack of child care and afterschool options reducing opportunities and positive outcomes for children.

While some jurisdictions are at their \$10/\$1,000 assessed valuation limit, the majority are not. In any case, Children First believes voters of all jurisdictions should at least have the option to support needed services for children. By creating this possibility, Oregonians can learn about the needs of children in their area and about the programs that could improve their lives.

For these reasons, Children First for Oregon supports SB 543.

Sincerely,

James Barta
Strategic Director

Together we can build an Oregon where all children thrive.