



February 14, 2019 - (2-20-19 update)

Oregon Senate Finance and Revenue Committee  
Oregon House Revenue Committee

Dear Chair Hass, Vice Chair Bentz, Senators Boquist, Riley, Taylor  
Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Findley and Marsh, Representatives Hernandez, G. Smith, Smith Warner,  
Werner Reschke

As supporters of the Washington County Kids, a collaborative of over 150 individuals and organizations dedicated to increasing awareness of the need for access to out of school time (OST-early childhood, after school, and summer) programs, we urge you to support the passage of SB543 to add children's service districts to the 28 currently allowed special districts.

Oregon is challenged by a lack of success for many of our kids:

\*Only 78.7% graduated from high school in 2018 and only 72.4% of those who are economically disadvantaged graduated. In Washington County the average was the same with 78.7% but some school districts have particular challenges; in Forest Grove only 75.6% of economically challenge students graduated.

\*Oregon's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade English language performance scores show only 46.4% were proficient and only 34.5% for the economically disadvantaged group. In Washington County only only 34.9% of the economically disadvantaged achieved the proficiency goal.

\*Oregon's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math performance scores show only 46.4% were proficient and only 34.5% of the economically disadvantaged group. Only 34% of Washington County's economically disadvantaged third graders achieved proficiency as well.

We are concerned that these kids need extra help. But they are not receiving it.

\*92% of the children under 5 in Washington County who qualify for federal and state early childhood programs do not receive them.

\*63% of K-12 Washington County kids do not participate in non-profit after school programs.

\*95% of K-12 Washington County kids do not participate in non-profit summer programs.

OST programs promote academic success, higher graduation rates, positive behavior and safety, and good citizenship ([After School Alliance, 2014](#)). Quality child care and after school programs have long term effects on graduation and eventual career success ([Parks, 2000](#)). By the time they reach 5<sup>th</sup> grade children who are economically disadvantaged who do not participate in summer programs average 3 years behind their middle-income peers who do participate ([Rand, 2015](#)). A meta-analysis of 213 OST programs found that participation significantly improved social and emotional skills, attitudes, behavior, and academic performance, resulting in an 11 percentile point gain in achievement ([Durlak, Weissberg, et al, 2011](#)). In addition, most programs include some federally-subsidized nutrition which increases overall health and the ability to function in school.

These programs also impact the workforce. Women who utilize quality out of school time care have fewer absences and earn more. In addition, the families benefit by reduced costs that free up a significant part of the family's hard-earned income to pay for housing, food, and medical care ([McCluskey, 2018](#)).

Funds are inadequate for these programs. A limited amount of federal and state funds is available for early childhood programs. No funds are allocated by the state for after school or summer programs. A limited

amount of pass-through federal money is available. Most counties do not allocate any of their funds to these programs. Some cities provide limited funding. Non-profit programs exist but they are not available in all geographic areas. Access is difficult for many children due to wait lists, fees, and/or transportation barriers. Some recreation programs exist but they usually require additional fees and they may be difficult to access due to geographic and/or transportation barriers. Not all children are interested in recreation programs or able to participate due to physical limitations.

SB543 does not ask for State funds. It only allows citizens to sign petitions to organize children's service districts in a democratic manner to serve the children of their community.

As concerned Oregonians, we urge you to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Katie Riley, Ed.D.  
President, Washington County Kids  
250 NE Hillwood Dr.  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

## **Individuals**

Kyle Allen, Hillsboro City Councilor

Lisa Allen, Member, Hillsboro School Board

Robert Bailey, M.S.W., Past President and Executive Director, Oregon Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse

Maureen Barnhart, retired Hillsboro educator

Susan Bender-Phelps, Owner, Odyssey Mentoring

Joe Christy, Retired Washington County Juvenile Department Director

Sal DeTraglia, Attorney at law

Don Domes, Licensed Tax and Small Business Consultant, Technology Education Teacher, Retired

Dale Feik, former Chair of Washington County Citizen Action Network, retired teacher, Project Director of Hillsboro Air & Water

Carol Greenough, Ph.D., retired Clinical Psychologist

Marcia Hille, LCSW, MBA, Executive Director, Sequoia Mental Health Services

Greg Malinowski, former Washington County Commissioner and partner, Malinowski Gardens

Claire Morgan, retired Teacher

Luann Pelton, retired Accounting Manager

Dan Saltzman, Portland Commissioner, retired

Dick Schouten, Washington County Commissioner

Dick Stenson, Tuality Healthcare, Pres. & CEO (retired)

Susan Stoltenberg, Executive Director, YWCA of Greater Portland

Nathan Teske, Executive Director, Bienestar

Jeremy Vanroyce, Executive Director, Beaverton PAL

## **Organizations**

Adelante Mujeres

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Portland Metropolitan Area

CASA for Children

Centro Cultural de Washington County

Champions for America's Future

Chess for Success

Children's Institute

Eden Acres, Environmental Education

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

Impact NW

In4All (formerly Business Education Compact)

MIT School (Multiple Intelligences)

Neighbors For Kids

Oregon MESA

Oregon Public Health Association

ReadyNation

YMCA of Columbia-Willamette

YWCA of Greater Portland