



City of Medford

# Office of the City Manager

*Medford ~ A Fantastic Place to Live, Work & Play*

House Committee on Education  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

February 25, 2019

**RE: Support House Bill 2594**

Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Medford, I urge your support of House Bill 2594. We believe, and have seen first-hand, that the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) is an important program that advances local community redevelopment efforts, provides applied education for college students and develops the next generation Oregon workforce.

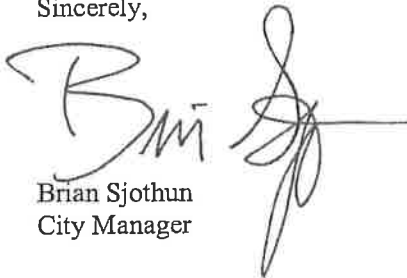
Each year, SCYP works in a different community and matches community-identified project ideas with up to 35 university courses, 20+ faculty, and 500 students across more than 12 disciplines giving over 40,000 hours of effort. Students add capacity, fresh thinking, and the political space for communities to think and act anew.

Thus far, SCYP has worked in partnership with numerous small and large cities throughout Oregon, including the City of Medford. The city has implemented a variety of the students work since our partnership such as:

- Elementary students received backpacks containing child-parent activities on emergency preparedness as part of a "Rogue Valley Ready" outreach campaign;
- Allocated funds to further study and implement ideas generated by UO students to improve downtown Medford wayfinding;
- The Medford Police Department pursued student-recommended strategies intended to improve city-Latino engagement such as regularly contributing to Medford's Spanish speaking magazine; and
- Based on the UO's work to enhance bicycle infrastructure connecting neighborhoods and businesses with the Bear Creek Greenway, Medford's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee worked with the City Council to complete one of the projects.

Many Oregon communities, especially those in rural areas, could also benefit from a partnership with SCYP but cannot fully afford to participate. With a biennial appropriation of \$300,000, SCYP could help more Oregon cities— both urban and rural—become program partners and see similar successes to those realized by the City of Medford through SCYP.

Sincerely,



Brian Sjothun  
City Manager

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