

Martin E. Granum
4425 SW 202nd Ave
Aloha, Oregon 97078

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Subject: Senate Bill 543 Children's Service District – SUPPORT

Oregon House Human Services and Housing Committee

Chair Keny-Guyer

Vice Chair Noble and Vice Chair Sanchez

Representatives Helt, Meek, Mitchell, Schouten, Williams, and Zika

Hello!

As a member of the Hillsboro School District Board of Directors I offer my full support for SB 543 which authorizes formation of children's service districts and provides districts the authority to assess, levy and collect taxes to pay the cost of children's services within the boundaries of the district. Defines children's services as services that support children's total health and well-being that are provided to children outside of school hours.

I've seen the impact services like this have on our kids – it's a game changer, and especially for families where all parents are working. One amazing example in HSD is the Youth Development Programs offered by Adelante Mujeres, an amazing non-profit in Washington County, and their Chicas program. Chicas partners with local public schools and more than 500 local families each year to offer after school programming, leadership, and community service opportunities for Latina youth and their families. You should see the library at Free Orchards Elementary School in Cornelius buzzing with kids after school. That's why we need this legislation!

The need for these services is great, and the impact on the development and success of our children is unquestioned. I've had many parents ask me to find a way to increase after-school activities and lower or eliminate cost barriers. In today's K-12 world, there simply is too little funding to meet this critical need and it's heartbreaking because we know what needs to be done and how to do it. This measure offers the hope of a funding stream focused squarely on this need. Further, this measure puts the control squarely in the hands of local communities and local voters, with all proceeds invested back into that community... it's a great measure to address a critical need. To my mind, this is a great piece of legislation and I wholeheartedly support.

Thank you for your service in the legislature!

Respectfully,



Martin E. Granum
Hillsboro School District, Director Position 3
granumm@hsd.k12.or.us
(503) 734-7171