



**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 543
House Human Services and Housing
March 27 , 2019**

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chairs Sanchez and Noble and Members of the Committee

CASA of Oregon asks your support of SB 543. As a Community Development Corporation that focuses our work in rural areas and with primarily Latino populations, we clearly see the need for more robust out of school time.

Throughout the state there exists a need for access to out of school time (OST- early childhood, after school, and summer) programs. We believe the mechanism to fund this is to allow the formation of Children's Service Districts. No state funding is required as the decision to tax is left up to the members of the local communities

As an organization that provides housing and asset building opportunities to populations of limited means and communities of color, we understand the difficulty many families have in participating in OST programs. There are limited amount of federal and state funds available for OST programs.

There is no funding from state sources 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.

We urge you to pass SB 543.