

To: Human Services & Housing Committee (hhs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)
From: Salvatore DeTraglia (private citizen, Washington County)
Re: **Letter of Support for the Passage of Oregon SB543**
Date: April 18, 2019

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Human Services & Housing Committee:

I am writing to support the passage into law of Oregon SB543 ("SB543").

As the Committee is aware, SB543 authorizes the formation of children's service districts. SB543 further authorizes such children's service districts to levy property taxes to fund programs that support children's total health and well-being outside of school hours.

Children with access to programs outside of school hours are more likely to grow into successful, productive, well-adjusted adults and contributors to societal good. In many communities, however, such programs are (a) non-existent, (b) under-funded, (c) over-capacity, and/or (d) simply beyond the financial means of many parents. This is why passage of SB543 is so important.

Passage of SB543 would be an invaluable mechanism for local communities to provide sustainable funding for early childhood, after school, and summer programs that (a) prevent child abuse, (b) assure high quality early childhood care, (c) offer nutritious meals outside the home, (d) provide opportunities to receive mentoring, and (e) support the academic success of all children—regardless of their financial means, culture, faith, or socioeconomic position.

Stated more simply and bluntly, passage of SB543 would be a giant leap toward helping many Oregon children to build a brighter future and escape the cycle of poverty.

For the foregoing reasons (and countless others), I urge you to pass SB543 into law.

Sincerely,

Salvatore DeTraglia III
Beaverton, Oregon