



April 24, 2019

Oregon House Human Services and Housing Committee

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chairs Noble and Sanchez, Representatives Helt, Meek, Mitchell, Schouten, Williams, and Zika

As supporters of 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 3rd grade English language performance scores show only 46.4% were proficient and only 34.5% for the economically disadvantaged group. In Washington County only 34.9% of the economically disadvantaged achieved the proficiency goal.

*Oregon's 3rd 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 5th 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,

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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

Maria Caballero Rubio, Executive Director, Centro Cultural de Washington County

Joe Christy, Retired Washington County Juvenile Department Director

Kathy Cvetko, Founder/Owner, Math Gamers LLC

Sal DeTraglia, Attorney at law

Margaret Doherty, State Representative

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

Shari Getz, Founder, Creativity HQ

Kate Grandusky, member, Forest Grove School Board

Martin Granum, member, Hillsboro School Board

Carol Greenough, Ph.D., retired Clinical Psychologist

Sue Hekker, member, Sherwood School Board

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

Erin Hubert, CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area

Tom Hughes, former Metro Chair and former Mayor, Hillsboro

Stefanie Kondor, Vice President, Development, RELATED NORTHWEST

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

Claire Morgan, retired Teacher

Luann Pelton, retired Accounting Manager

Hemi Periyani, Interpreter, Oregon Judicial Court and Medical

Paul Runyan, Executive Director, Mid-Columbia Children's Council

Dan Saltzman, Portland Commissioner, retired

Dick Schouten, Washington County Commissioner

Karen Shawcross, Executive Director, Bienestar, retired

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

Karolina Stepkowski Newcombe

Susan Stoltenberg, Executive Director, YWCA of Greater Portland

Nathan Teske, Executive Director, Bienestar

Jeremy Vanroyce, Executive Director, Beaverton PAL

Organizations

Adelante Mujeres

Aerospace Science for Kids

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Portland Metropolitan Area

CASA for Children

CASA of Oregon (Community and Shelter Assistance Corp.)

Centro Cultural de Washington County

Champions for America's Future

Chess for Success

Children First for Oregon

Children's Institute

Eden Acres, Environmental Education

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

Impact NW

In4All (formerly Business Education Compact)

Math Gamers, LLC

MIT School (Multiple Intelligences)

Neighbors For Kids

Oregon MESA

Oregon Public Health Association

Ready Nation

YMCA of Columbia-Willamette

YWCA of Greater Portland