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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

How could I not sign on to support SB 543 or how could you not support it? The need is great with the opportunity to do something constructive without asking for State funds presents itself with people committed to the welfare of our children stepping forward.

I signed on as a supporter of 'Out of School Time' legislation when requested to do so by Katie Riley. After reading the following letter and the evidence presented, it matched my thoughts and insights about what children need – things to do/be where they can be safe and productive learning and associating with positive role models. I was fortunate to have volunteers in La Grande, Oregon who started and ran a Little League Baseball program. I started participating every summer when I was nine years old. I played American Legion Summer baseball. If there were fees to play sports, it was so small that my parents who struggled to make ends meet, could pay the few dollars required. That 'Out of School Time' program gave me my career path – and helped form my character.

I also played four years of High School Varsity Baseball (worked at Albertson's Food during my last 2 years in high school and all four years of college) and four years of College Baseball at Eastern Oregon College. My high school baseball coach even helped me get an Elks Baseball Scholarship at EOC. After earning my B.S. in Elementary Education in 1966 I started teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Forest Grove. Last month I attended Jack Rainey's memorial service in Salem. He started the little league baseball program in LaGrande, mentored me from age nine, all the way through high and got me that Elk's scholarship. At Mr. Rainey's memorial service, former Congressman Rod Chandler said "I have no doubt that young men and women who never heard of Jack Rainey have excelled in life because he influenced them through his students and players. It is surely intended to be that way. We are all given the chance to serve. Jack Rainey certainly made the most of his opportunity." See attachment titled Jack Rainey Rod Chandler Eulogy April 6, 2019. He quotes one of my former American Legion Team members, Greg Blackman, who participated in that Out of School Time program.

My point: Out of School Time programs have very lasting life-time positive consequences.  
Please support SB 543

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Feik, Ed.D, Reading Education; M.Ed., Counseling; M.S. Special Education; last assignment: self-contained classroom of 15 elementary students labeled as having emotional disabilities; previous assignments: resource room teacher for six-through ninth-grade students, coordinator of an elementary Title I reading project; retired from teaching in 1999 after serving low-performing students for over thirty years. Certificates: Superintendent, Principal, and specialty teaching.

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As supporters of the 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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,

Katie Riley, Ed.D.  
President, Washington County Kids  
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