

Good morning legislative committee,

I am submitting my written testimony in support of the proposed amendment to HB 4212 as submitted by Representative Wallan both as the President of Sprague Youth Football Association and as a parent. Sprague Youth Football is part of the Tualatin Valley Youth Football League that provides the opportunity for kindergarten through 4th grade to play flag football and 3rd grade through 7th grade to play tackle football. The kids that play in our association elementary and middle schools that eventually feed into Sprague High School. Our teams mostly play teams from the other youth football associations of the Salem-Keizer School District. Last fall we had over 100 kids play either tackle or flag and would expect about this many to play again this fall. Football and sports in general play a significant role in the well being and development of children and I know there are a lot of kids not just in the Sprague Youth Football community but communities across the state that are looking forward to playing again this fall.

As a parent I can attest that my three children need to play organized sports this fall. All three of my children already lost the ability to play this past spring due the shutdown and they ask me almost everyday if they will be able to play this fall. My 6 year old son is expecting to play flag football. My 8 year old daughter is looking forward to playing soccer. My 10 year old son is desperate to play tackle football.

If contact sports are not allowed to resume in the fall it will have both a short term and long devastating impact on children and communities across all of Oregon.

As the President of Sprague Youth Football and parent of three young athletes I urge you to pass HB 4212 with the amendment proposed by Representative Wallan to allow contact sports.

Thank you,  
Brad Larsen