

From the Desk of
Senator Chuck Riley

March 2, 2021

Oregon Senate Revenue and Finance Committee,

Dear Chair Ginny Burdick and Senators Brian Boquist, Lynn Findley, Rob Wagner and Chuck Riley,

As members of the Forest Grove School Board, we urge you to support the passage of SB299 to add children's service districts to the 28 currently allowed Special Districts.

On February 20, 2020, The Forest Grove School Board issued a proclamation supporting a county initiative to provide sustainable funding for out of school time programs in the county because:

*Our community's future well-being depends on a high quality public education program that prepares all student for college, careers, democracy, and life long learners; and

*Affordable, accessible quality out-of-school time programs support student success in school and in life; and

*Working parents whose children attend school in Forest Grove are extremely concerned about the lack of quality, affordable, accessible, before and after school programs; and

*A significant number of children and families served by the Forest Grove School District do not have access to out-of-school time programs because they are unaffordable, inaccessible, or may not exist; and

*The average cost of child care in Oregon is \$16,000 a year per child, an amount less than 15% families can afford; and

*A child's chances for success not depend on living in the right zip code.

These conditions still exist. The Washington County Board of Commissioners decided to not put the requested measure on the ballot. We believe citizens should have the right to collect signatures to put such an initiative on the ballot and SB299 would confer the right. We ask you support the bill and give us, as the citizens the right to sign such a petition.

Sincerely,

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