



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT[®]
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

March 15, 2021

TO: Joint Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Education
FROM: Oregon Alliance of YMCAs
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The Oregon Alliance of YMCAs supports SB5513 for investing in Oregon's youth. The Y helps young people develop into tomorrow's leaders, we help everyone improve their health and well-being, and we strive to create equitable communities for all. We support state investment in places and programs that support youth and families and expand access to resources, opportunities, and relationships that everyone needs to thrive.

We support the funding appropriations for the biennium that provide a comprehensive set of services to families, including education, nutrition, and youth development programs to enhance child well-being. We know how important it is to that youth are receiving the nutrition they need not only in school, but also in afterschool and summer hours. YMCA Childcare and Early Learning programs like Head Start prepare young children for school and life and support parents' engagement in their child's learning and development. YMCA Afterschool programs provide children and youth with a safe place to go during out-of-school time hours but also provide opportunities to tackle achievement gaps and boost in-school success. Summer YMCA academic achievement programs are designed to mitigate summer learning loss in math and reading and to foster physical and social-emotional growth. YMCA day camp and overnight camps provide enrichment activities that include art, music, physical activity, field trips and swimming lessons. During the pandemic, YMCAs across the state were the first to step up to offer emergency child care and support for distance learning.

Youth Development programs supported by this bill will help prepare our youth to build knowledge and skills with real-life work experiences and learning opportunities and encourage personal and socio-economic growth. We appreciate this bill's commitment to invest in the professional development for early learning professionals.

The Oregon Alliance of YMCAs supports SB5513.

Oregon Alliance of YMCAs
www.oregonymcas.org

The Y: We're for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.