

Dear Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, and Rayfield, and members of the Committee:

My name is Nikki Holland. I am an Adapted Physical Education teacher from Toledo, Oregon, and am writing in support of state funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center.

The Toledo swimming pool has been the facility used for the Lincoln County School District's Adapted Physical Education Aquatics Program for over 30 years. The students in this program have many different disabilities including Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disabilities, Spina Bifida, Muscular Dystrophy, Specific Learning Disabilities, and Communication disorders. The program has provided these students with valuable exercise, skills in swimming, and the life skills to independently access lifelong physical activity.

The Toledo Pool has been one of the key players in the program's success in fostering active lifestyles for students with disabilities from Toledo, Siletz, Eddyville, Newport, and Waldport, while in school and into adulthood. The pool has provided a welcoming, inclusive environment for these students when other facilities were not accommodating. For 30 years, young people with disabilities have walked through the doors of the Toledo pool, have been taught to swim, and ventured into adulthood with the ability to stay healthy and active in their community through swimming. Many of these students continue to use this pool as adults. One of these students is still an active member of the pool community some 25 years after beginning the Adaptive PE program. The Greater Toledo Pool has enabled her to continue with the active lifestyle routine that she has grown to love.

Our rural East Lincoln County community supports and values this facility. In 2017, we voted to create the Greater Toledo Pool Recreation District, and for a property tax that will permanently cover the operations and maintenance of the now, Greater Toledo Pool. However, the pool and building require some major renovations, and funding from the state is desperately needed.

Please include funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center (the name for the new facility) in your proposed budget. Think of all the children and young adults with disabilities that will continue to thrive in this program, if the doors of the pool they know and love stay open.

Thank you,

Nikki Holland  
Adaptive Physical Education Specialist