

April 27, 2021

Oregon House General Government Committee

Dear Chair Wilde, Vice Chairs Leif and Lively, and Representatives Valderama and Zika:

I am writing to you as a volunteer for Friends of Washington County Kids, business owner, parent, grandparent, and past Executive Committee member of the Washington County Commission on Children & Families. I am asking you to vote to support SB299 Children's Service District. This bill will be a powerful tool that will enable communities throughout Oregon to raise local funding for out-of-school-time programs when other options are denied them.

You already know the value of these programs. You will receive many letters praising their efficacy in giving our kids access to programs that support their success in school and in life. These programs also support their families by providing affordable and accessible child care and early learning opportunities. They support employers who depend on adults with children to staff their businesses.

The Federal government is about to send millions of dollars to our state to provide funding for these types of programs. But that funding is a one-time infusion and then it will be gone. We need to give our counties and communities tools to create long-term solutions. SB299 is not for every county. But for those counties where it can make a difference, your support will give them what they need to provide for their kids, families, and communities. Please give voters this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Susan Bender Phelps
503-890-0971