

I am writing in support of SB 299. I became a mother at the age of 19. I took advantage of assistance as I needed it. I did my best to provide for my son as a young single mother. It was very hard to make ends meet while making just above minimum wage. I lived paycheck to paycheck for many years. It was nearly impossible to provide after-school and summer care for my son. We went without a lot just so I could ensure he was looked after while I worked. I believe outside-of-school time programs have helped him be successful today. He is graduating high school this year and is going to college in the fall. He has been a member of the Tualatin Youth Advisory for 5 years and represented Tualatin at the National League of Cities in Washington DC last year. Childcare programs allowed me to go back to school and work very hard at my career. I am now a Director and a City Councilor. I know not every mother has the ability to pay for these services and I know how hard it is to choose childcare over other necessities. Paying for childcare so mothers can work should not be a huge financial burden. I recall paying \$500+ a month for before and after school care for my son. At a wage of \$15 an hour and with rent as high as it is in Oregon, I am sure you can do the math. \$500 is a huge monthly bill for most people, but not possible under conditions many mothers find themselves in. Our underserved communities deserve to have options and programs for their children. Children who are involved with programs are more likely to succeed. Please support our children. Please support our future.

Thank you,  
Christen Sacco  
Tualatin City Councilor