

May 3, 2021

MMC

**Metropolitan
Mayors'
Consortium**

Mayor Lacey Beaty

City of Beaverton

Mayor Brian Hodson

City of Canby

Mayor Jeffrey Dalin

City of Cornelius

Mayor Gery Schirado

City of Durham

Mayor Brian Cooper

City of Fairview

Mayor Peter Truax

City of Forest Grove

Mayor Travis Stovall

City of Gresham

Mayor Tom Ellis

City of Happy Valley

Mayor Steve Callaway

City of Hillsboro

Mayor Ken Gibson

City of King City

Mayor Joe Buck

City of Lake Oswego

Mayor Mark Hardie

City of Maywood Park

Mayor Mark Gamba

City of Milwaukie

Mayor Teri Lenahan

City of North Plains

Mayor Rachel Lyles Smith

City of Oregon City

Mayor Ted Wheeler

City of Portland

Mayor Walt Williams

City of Rivergrove

Mayor Keith Mays

City of Sherwood

Mayor Jason Snider

City of Tigard

Mayor Randy Lauer

City of Troutdale

Mayor Frank Bubenik

City of Tualatin

Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle

City of Vancouver (ex officio)

Mayor Jules Walters

City of West Linn

Mayor Julie Fitzgerald

City of Wilsonville

Mayor Scott Harden

City of Wood Village

Representative Marty Wide, Chair
Representative Gary Leif, Vice-Chair
Representative John Lively, Vice-Chair
House Committee on General Government

Re: Opposition to SB 299A

Dear Chair Wilde, Vice-Chairs Leif and Lively, and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium represents the mayors of twenty-five cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express its opposition to SB 299A, which would authorize the creation of children's special districts and provides districts the authority to assess, levy and collect taxes to pay the cost of children's services within the boundaries of the district.

The mayors of the MMC acknowledge the intent of SB 299A, which is to enhance services for children. A valuable and worthy goal, especially after a year of school closures that have forced children to shift to comprehensive distance learning. However, creating a new special property-taxing district to deliver those services could jeopardize the effectiveness of existing property-tax-based service providers to deliver other critical services like police and fire emergency services.

If SB 299A were to pass, it would also raise concerns of losing essential property tax revenue via compression. One of the largest sources of revenue for many MMC cities, property tax revenue helps pay for existing services to our communities, some of which already aimed at services for children. This is the stark reality of our current property tax system in Oregon, where Measure 5 reduces taxes that would otherwise be levied.

Furthermore, SB 299A was drafted for the 2021 Legislative Session without the input from the cities it strives to serve, disregarding the existing children services work happening at the county level.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Mayors of the MMC