

Submitter: Kaylan Sisco
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB531

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education Committee,

We are writing in support of Senate Bill 531 because we were able to benefit directly from previous funds allocated from the Oregon Legislature to support summer learning for Oregon's most underserved youth.

In Tillamook, our funding supported hiring youth staff to get them into the que to help with the child care staffing issue that is plaguing our communities in Oregon.

We have hired, trained and retained a large staff team that are providing care and support for hundreds of youth.

We know that Oregon is rich with summer opportunities but in our community, we see how access to engaging/enriching/necessary opportunities remains inequitable for low income youth with traumatic histories.

Thanks to funding from Oregon Community Summer Grants, we were able to offer an opportunity that most kids in our community would not otherwise have. This is one example of why it is critically important to support Oregon youth and families with access to meaningful, relevant summer opportunities.

Every Oregon youth deserves access to safe, inclusive, and welcoming summer learning environments that will help them become a thriving adult.

Please support Senate Bill 531 and get funds into our communities sooner to help ensure we can meet the needs of those continuing to struggle within our inequitable systems.

Without future funds, we know youth in our community will not be able to access such impactful opportunities.

Without more time to build programs and do outreach, we will miss out on serving those who need it the most