

Submitter: Travis Magrane
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB531

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Travis Magrane, and I am Executive Director at Youth Music Project, a non-profit organization in West Linn, OR dedicated to teaching music to kids.

I am reaching out today to urge passage of Senate Bill 531, that will appropriate money from the General Fund to the Department of Education for summer and after school programs.

Afterschool and summer programs are essential for the health and well-being of kids, families, and communities, and funding is a perennial issue. The benefits of out-of-school and afterschool programs, and music education are well known and documented. At Youth Music Project, 40% of enrollments since our inception in 2012 have been provided free of charge to low-income families in our community who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford access to programs such as ours. To provide this access, we rely substantially on foundation and government grant funds, and direct public support from individuals and businesses. Securing consistent funding is essential for our organizations success and ability to deliver on our mission. Access to summer programs – especially for low-income kids and families – and especially throughout the summer, is crucial in helping to shrink the opportunity gap for these kiddos.

The funding that has been provided to YMP through the states investment in 2021 and 2022 has been instrumental (pun intended!) in allowing us to continue to meet the communities need to provide affordable and accessible music education to youth in Clackamas County and beyond. Thanks to funds provided via Oregon Association of Service Districts in 2022, we were able to provide over 2,000 hours of classes, lessons, and camps to 712 students, with 300 low-income families attending at no-cost.

"Thank you for helping my family and I with tuition assistance... as a single mom and student my budget is really stretched. Without the opportunity that Youth Music Project is giving my son to learn music, believe me, he [would] not have access to play an instrument. Thank you again." – YMP Parent

"My daughters come home floored from your camps every year. Sincerely, it brings tears to my eyes that they have found such confidence in their abilities through you and music. I cannot thank you enough." – YMP Parent

Please support Senate Bill 531 and continue to provide sustainable funding for these vital afterschool and summer programs in our state.

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration, and for all your efforts for our communities, and the State of the Oregon.

Warmly,
Travis Magrane