

Submitter: Jill Brown  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB531

dollars to the summer program opportunities in 2022. NW Kidney Kids was one of the many organizations that benefited from this funding to enrich the lives of children across Oregon. Therefore, we are writing today to support funding for afterschool and summer programs in Senate Bill 531.

NW Kidney Kids has been providing summer programming for children and their families since 2006. We understand firsthand the importance of community organizations and how they are bringing together underserved and rural communities throughout the summertime to further education and provide resources and support. In 2022 with the support of the Summer Opportunity Grant, we had a fully funded summer program with additional support built in to serve the communities better. With less focus needed on finding funding, our small team was able to focus on providing programming and fulfilling our mission fully. Senate Bill 531 will continue funding organizations at the front line in serving children and families from underserved communities.

Northwest Kidney Kids serves children impacted by chronic kidney disease, mainly end-stage renal disease (ESRD), or those on dialysis, awaiting a kidney transplant, or receiving a kidney transplant. According to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) children with CKD face many challenges, which can include: a negative self-image, behavior problems, learning problems, delayed language skills, and delayed motor skills development. Teens with this chronic illness face extra hurdles to achieving independence and building self-esteem. In addition, they often lack age-appropriate training on the skills needed to self-manage their disease. Our summer program includes two camps, day trips, mentoring and monthly support groups for all ages, and a variety of other ways to engage and promote the healthy development of youth.

One impact of 2022 funding was the timeline -acceptance and funding were not released until late June. This late notice provides too much uncertainty to be properly staffed, and training is delayed. When working with underserved and rural communities, it is important that proper time for onboarding and training in preparation for summer activities.

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