



Written Testimony Template:

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.

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 youth in rural communities of color in Southern Klamath County.

Last summer, with \$75,000 (or general funds from Community Summer Grant), our program provided 130 unique students with a summer enrichment camp for 2 years old-6th grade and junior high/high school paid internship programs. Our camp is complete exploration (caves and wildlife refuge), Engineering STEM program, water safety lessons, socio-emotional, community and leadership development. We know that there are kids in our community who do not have access/support/resources, especially during summer months as families are diligently working in the agricultural industry. Our geographical location and low median-income severely limits families access to safe childcare. They deserve to thrive in this world, and our camp provides the platform for them to do so.

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.

**tiny
mighty
strong.**

Please consider reinstating this funding, as it bridges critical gaps for communities living in isolation.

Thank you for your consideration.

With Hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Frey', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Amy Frey

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