

Submitter: Deb Casey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2717

I fully support this bill, HB2717. The benefits of learning outdoors—in nature—have been extensively documented. As an educator focused on finding alternative ways of teaching students from a wide range of backgrounds, I know that hands-on learning that involves all the senses is reliably effective, and being out in fresh air, feet in the dirt—or water, can't be beat. What I learned from thirty-five years of teaching at the University of Oregon was further confirmed as a nature guide at Mt Pisgah, leading groups from local elementary school groups on hikes throughout Buford Park—attentive to seasons, cycles, interrelationships, our roles & responsibilities as humans. Kindergartners were as involved as the chaperones: all ages benefit from exploring openly, comfortably, guided and supported by knowledgeable facilitators, in natural settings outdoors, an ideal setting for pre-schools on up through all ages!