



March 8, 2023

To: Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
From: Our Children Oregon, The Children's Agenda
RE: Support of SB 858

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Boquist, and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon (OCO) is a statewide organization that advances equitable policies, data and research, and whole-child advocacy. The Children's Agenda, convened by OCO, brings together ~127 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to improving the well-being of Oregon's children, youth, and families. Our collective created a 2023 legislative agenda that focuses on community-driven solutions to provide access and opportunities for all children and families.

SB 858: Allowing Children Services Districts is part of the 2023 Children's Agenda. In every part of the state, we see the lack of child care and afterschool options reducing opportunities and positive outcomes for children. We see SB 858 as an opportunity to provide another tool in the toolbox about how we, in Oregon, can better support children.

Currently, special districts are utilized to address water distribution, fire protection, cemetery maintenance, and many other basic needs services. Caring for our youngest Oregonians is a foundational responsibility of the community and a basic need for parents who are doing their all to stay afloat.

This bill gives voters the option to support the most needed services for children in their community. This bill offers communities across the state a chance to have a conversation about the needs of children and how they want to lean in to address those needs.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

Greer Klepacki, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator

Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

View the 2023 Children's Agenda at www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2023-childrens-agenda/