



March 8 2023

Oregon Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Re: SB 858 Children's Service District

Dear Chair Meek, Vice Chair Boquist, and Senators Findley, Golden, and Jama,

As supporters of Washington County Kids, a collaborative of over 150 individuals and organizations dedicated to increasing access to out of school time (OST-early childhood, after school, and summer) programs, we urge you to support the passage of SB 858 to add children's service districts to the 28 currently allowed special districts.

Even before the pandemic it was very difficult and costly to obtain quality after-school and summer care for children. The pandemic has exacerbated this problem, particularly for working women and BIPOC communities of color. We all want to have a thriving economy but that will simply not happen without more support for OST programs to allow parents and guardians to work knowing their children are safe and engaged in positive activities when they are not in school.

Research shows that OST programs promote academic success, higher graduation rates, positive behavior and safety, and good citizenship ([After School Alliance, 2014](#); [Vandell, et. al., 2020](#)). Quality child care and after-school programs have long term effects on graduation and eventual career success ([Parks, 2000](#)). By the time they reach 5<sup>th</sup> grade children who are economically disadvantaged who do not participate in summer programs average 3 years behind their middle-income peers who do participate ([Rand, 2015](#)). A meta-analysis of 213 OST programs found that participation significantly improved social and emotional skills, attitudes, behavior, and academic performance, resulting in an 11 percentile point gain in achievement ([Durlak and Weissberg, 2011](#)). In addition, most programs include some federally-subsidized nutrition which increases overall health and the ability to function in school.

These programs also impact the workforce. Women who utilize quality out of school time care have fewer absences and earn more. In addition, the families benefit by reduced costs that free up a significant part of the family's hard-earned income to pay for housing, food, and medical care ([McCluskey, 2018](#)).

Funds are inadequate for these programs or may not be sustainable. The State passed the SSA act which includes the possibility to fund after-school and summer programs but most districts have opted to use the funds for counselors and decreasing in-class sizes. Most counties do not allocate any of their funds to these programs. Some cities provide limited funding. Non-profit programs exist but they are not available in all geographic areas. Access is difficult for many children due to wait lists, fees, and/or transportation barriers. Some recreation programs exist but they usually require additional fees and they may be difficult to access due to the same barriers.

SB 858 does not ask for State funds. It only allows citizens to sign petitions to organize children's service districts in a democratic manner to serve the children of their community.

As concerned Oregonians, we urge you to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Katie Riley, Ed.D.  
President, Washington County Kids  
250 NE Hillwood Dr. Hillsboro, OR 97124

## **Additional Supporters**

### **Individuals**

Lisa Allen, Member, Hillsboro School Board, and educator

Robert Bailey, M.S.W., Past President and Executive Director, Oregon Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse

Sean Bartlett, Director, Afterschool Program, Portland Jewish Academy

Susan Bender Phelps, Owner, Rose and Fern Cellars Winery

Joe Christy, former Director, Washington County Juvenile Department

Michael Coiner, Volunteer, Washington County Kids

Amy Corbett, Chief Program Officer, Metropolitan Family Service Kathy

Kimberly Culbertson, Secretary, Democratic Party of Washington County

Kathy Cvetko, Founder/Owner, Math Gamers LLC

Don Domes, Licensed Tax and Small Business Consultant, Technology Education Teacher, retired

Briana Ellenberger, Hillsboro

Dale Feik, Chair, Washington County Citizen Action Network

Carl Fisher, Commissioner Tualatin Valley Water District

Shari Getz, Founder, Owner, Shari Getz Creative

Dan Goldman, Superintendent, NWRES D

Kate Grandusky, Member, Forest Grove School Board

Michael Harper, Former NBA Player, Portland Trailblazers and Owner/Agent State Farm Insurance Company

Kathleen Hersh, Garden Home

Ben Hoffman, M.D., Pediatrician

Penney Hoodenpyle, Reedville and Hillsboro School Districts Board Member (1984 to 1999 )

Tom Hughes, former Metro President, former Mayor of Hillsboro

Alissa Keny-Guyer, former State Representative and former member, Portland Children's Levy

Josie Koehne, Gaston

Greg Malinowski, former Washington County Commissioner

Jonella Malinowski, Washington County

Claire Morgan, retired teacher

Teri Patapoff, parent and volunteer with Girl Scouts of America

Luann Pelton, retired Accounting Manager

Maria Caballero Rubio, Executive Director, Centro Cultural de Washington County

Dan Saltzman, former Portland City Commissioner in charge of the Portland Children's Levy

Dick Schouten, former Washington County Commissioner and retired attorney

Sheri Schouten, Former State Representative

Terry Styner, Beaverton

Lianne Thompson, Clatsop County Commissioner

Malynda Wenzl, Forest Grove Mayor

## **Organizations**

Bienestar

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Portland Metropolitan Area

Centro Cultural de Washington County

Children's Funding Project

Children's Institute

Clackamas Women's Services

Domestic Violence Resource Center

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

KCE Champions LLC

KinderCare Learning Centers

League of Women Voters Oregon

Math Gamers, LLC

Metropolitan Family Service

Mittleman Jewish community Center

Northwest Family Services

Northwest Regional Education Services District

Neighbors for Kids (Lincoln County

Oregon Alliance of YMCAs

Oregon Environmental Council

Oregon Public Health Association

Our Children Oregon

Portland Jewish Academy

ProChoice Oregon

Ready Nation

Safe Kids Coalition

Youth Rights & Justice

YMCA of Columbia-Willamette

YWCA of Greater Portland

**(and many more who have submitted separate testimony)**