

Submitter: Bette Keehley  
On Behalf Of: City of Oakland  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

My name is Bette Keehley, I am fortunate to be the Mayor of the great little City of Oakland. I am here today to speak on behalf of our General Fund grant request. We are proud to be the 1st city to be placed on the State's Historic Register in 1968 and in 1979 we were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Our historic inventory has over 90 entries throughout the city, including Historic Washington School. A three-story jewel in our crown.

Oakland is the home of School District number 1 which was originally located in a wooden schoolhouse built in 1878 and named The Russell Academy. Due to a fire, the building was replaced in 1910 with the current brick building, Washington School, which is, itself, on the National Register of Historic Places.

In later years the School District moved to more modern facilities and the Washington School building fell into disrepair. A group of citizens worked hard to raise money and put in lots of volunteer hours to restore the building to its 1910 condition.

The building is currently occupied by the Oakland City Hall, Oakland Community Center, Oakland Public Library and Oakland Play School. The Community Center is used for various reasons like the recent regularly scheduled meetings of AA and the American Legion as well as the Oakland Singers, Oakland Community Response Team and the Oakland Community Theater.

The building was completed in the late 1990's and the elevator servicing all the areas of the building was installed as the only disabled access for the building. Over the years the elevator has provided access to many events, visits to City Hall, City Council Meetings, the Library and the Play School.

Due to the age of the elevator, and the fact that the manufacturer of the electronic equipment has gone out of business, parts for repair and maintenance are extremely rare. We have experienced several "close calls" when the elevator settled below the floor, or the doors refuse to open. We have been lucky so far and repairs have been successful. But for how long?

We want and need to make access for the building's many areas as easy as possible for all people. A community project was begun to renovate our elevator, modernize it so parts are available in case of future failure. Our little city's nonprofit organizations have raised approximately \$3,000. And we have submitted a grant request for \$141,300 to reach our goal.

This may seem like a small sum compared to the other projects the Ways and Means Capitol Construction Sub-Committee members will be considering, but we believe it to be as important to our citizens as all the others.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide some additional support for our grant request.