



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF WESTERN TREASURE VALLEY

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Written Testimony  
Joint Committee on Way and Means

Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and distinguished members of the committee:

My name is Dana Castellani, and I am the CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Treasure Valley with a Clubhouse right here in Ontario.

I am here today to ask for your support of Senate Bill 531, which would allocate life-changing funds over the upcoming biennium for community-based organizations (like my Club) for summer enrichment programs.

Last year we served over 400 school-aged kids and teens at our Ontario Clubhouse. Not only do we help local working families during the after-school hours, but we also help fill the gaps on many Fridays, holiday breaks, and 10 weeks during the summer when school is not in session. It is also important to note that over 50% of our Club members are in foster care, and the Club provides one more layer of consistency, safety, and meaningfulness in their lives. We are seen as a valued organization in our community, and this has recently spurred conversations about opening another Clubhouse in nearby Vale.

Without legislative action, kids and teens who do not have access to resources like our Boys & Girls Club will be left behind, creating continued inequity for our kids and their families. Our Club only charges \$20/youth to attend the after-school program and only \$50 to attend the entire summer program. Our kids and teens need us to be that safe place they can go to, be themselves, make friends, and participate in programs that can: improve academic performance, improve school attendance, reduce behavior problems, improve relationships with adults, and support more advanced social emotional skills.

As a non-profit community-based organization, we need dedicated funding to support our summer program that will help address the needs of youth from every background and environment, across Oregon. It's not too late for Oregon Legislators to act now and make this possible.

Thank you for your time.

Dana Castellani  
406-208-0248  
[castellani@bgcwtv.org](mailto:castellani@bgcwtv.org)