

Hello,

My name is Neida Robes. I am a community member and high school student from Woodburn, OR. I have lived my whole life in Woodburn and thrived in the culture and participated in events. I'm writing to ask for your support for a \$30 million dollar investment in community based summer learning programs. I had the privilege to experience a summer program that I believe my story should be shared with you. Then, you can see through me, the opportunities summer learning programs bring to students like myself.

The internship that I took part in during the summer of 2021 with Capaces opened many doors for me. I got the opportunity to get involved with [Capaces Leadership Institute](#) (CLI) directly through their youth oriented program, [TURNO](#). During the summer, I participated in the development of the TURNO curriculum for the 2022-2023 school year. Along with this experience, I got to partner with a sister organization with CLI that taught me valuable knowledge around Woodburn's history. This summer experience was so unique to me because it has led to other connections regarding my leadership skills. During this time, I got to develop my communication, collaboration, and leadership skills. If it weren't for this summer experience, I wouldn't have been able to further my first-hand understanding of non-profit work and connection with amazing people. Additionally, I took the chance to partner with legislators to get familiar with their work because of the summer program.

I got the best experience at working with Capaces. I got out of my comfort zone as a high school sophomore to discover my own abilities and potential.

Please support SB 531 and \$30 million for Community Based, Summer Learning Programs

It is vital that you support these bills so other students like myself get the chance to experience a variety of programs to support their development and inspire dreams.

Sincerely,

Neida Robles