

Submitter: Joshua Todd  
On Behalf Of: Camp Fire Columbia  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: HB4082

Rep. Neron and members of the House Committee on Education,

Summer Learning funding is critical to the youth and families of Oregon. Young people have experienced the most fundamental disruption in education that our nation has experienced in generations. Camp Fire Columbia provides licensed child care, youth advocacy, and overnight summer camp and day camp services. The loss of Summer Learning funding last year reduced the number of youth we were able to serve by over 300. More significantly, it created a massive deficit for our agency that we are still working to overcome. These funds are critical for youth and families success and without them not only do they suffer but community-based organizations, critical to our State's success are put at risk. I urge the committee to support funding for this summer and to create a long term solution so that youth have academic and social support during the summer, into the future. We will face challenges from the pandemic for years. For those of us working on the front lines with youth and community, the pandemic is not over. The impacts on students learning and behavior are still being felt and will require investment if we want to thrive as a State.

Joshua Todd, President & CEO Camp Fire Columbia (Clackamas, Multnomah & Yamhill counties)