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On Behalf Of: Camp Fire Central Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Education
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Summer opportunities are crucial for learning and development. In summer programs, young people develop a positive identity, build a sense of belonging and contribution, explore new interests, and practice self management and social skills. These skills undeniably carry over to the school year and lead to long term positive outcomes for schools and communities such as increased health and well-being, civic engagement, academic success and job or career readiness.

As long time providers of summer learning in Central Oregon, Camp Fire Central Oregon is seeing the need for summer support skyrocket. While families generally have less income to contribute to summer programs, youth in programs are requiring more specialized supports to help them self regulate and engage fully in summer learning. With strategic partnerships and appropriate funding, school districts and community based youth development organizations must collaborate to meet the growing needs of families. Support for our youth and families leads to a vibrant and engaged community, citizens who contribute and lead, and a workforce ready for the future. When young people thrive, the whole community thrives. Don't overlook the importance and impact of this critical support.