

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs McIntire and Wright, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3039. My name is Bess Goggins, and I serve as the CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Bend. Every day, I see firsthand the impact of high-quality after-school and summer learning programs. These programs are not just a convenience for working families—they are essential opportunities for young people to grow academically, socially, and emotionally in ways that complement their school-day experience.

HB 3039 is an important step forward because it builds on what we know works. This bill reflects the lessons learned from previous state investments in summer and after-school programs, as well as the findings of the HB 4082 workgroup. It recognizes that engagement is key—when learning is hands-on, relevant, and rooted in positive relationships, kids show up, participate, and thrive.

At Boys & Girls Clubs of Bend, we have seen this in action. Our programs integrate academic support, enrichment, and mentorship, helping young people develop both the skills and confidence they need to succeed. Last year, our commitment to literacy was recognized when we received an ODE Early Literacy Grant, ranking among the highest-scoring applications in the state. This funding has allowed us to incorporate literacy into a dynamic, youth-centered framework, ensuring kids build essential reading skills while also participating in STEM, leadership development, the arts, and hands-on learning experiences.

HB 3039 ensures that funding for summer and after-school learning is both predictable and accessible. This is critical. Too often, community-based organizations like Boys & Girls Clubs operate under uncertain, short-term funding cycles that make it difficult to plan, hire staff, and scale programs to meet demand. By creating a dedicated funding stream, this bill allows organizations to provide consistent, high-quality learning opportunities that reach more kids.

Just as importantly, HB 3039 acknowledges that schools cannot do this alone. It recognizes the vital role that community-based organizations, tribes, and other partners play in ensuring all kids have access to enriching learning experiences. Direct funding to these organizations is an investment in proven, high-impact programming that meets kids where they are and keeps them engaged year-round.

Investing in after-school and summer learning is also a smart economic decision. National research shows that every one dollar invested in Boys & Girls Clubs returns ten dollars and thirty-two cents in economic benefits to Club members, their families, and society. That return comes from better educational outcomes, workforce readiness, and long-term stability for families.

I urge the committee to support HB 3039 and ensure that summer and after-school learning opportunities continue to be comprehensive, engaging, and accessible to all youth. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Oregon's children. I welcome any questions and appreciate your consideration.

Onward, Bess

Bess Goggins
Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Clubs of Bend