

Submitter: Sydney Putnam  
On Behalf Of: CoRAA  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

I am writing to show my support for the Lane County Coalition of Recreation, Arts, and Athletics (CoRAA). I support the Emerald Valley Pickleball Foundation, and CoRAA is helping us construct a state-of-the-art pickleball facility, as part of a public-private partnership with Lane Community College.

The facility will expand the opportunities for free access to pickleball courts for local community members as well as players from around the region. Access to free courts is becoming limited as the sport grows in popularity. The importance of free access was highlighted for me recently when I helped to facilitate pickleball games at Serenity Lane addiction rehabilitation center. Residents were enthusiastic about the game and saw it as a way to stay healthy and connect with others. They wanted to know where they could play in the community once they completed their program. It was disheartening to know that the information I was giving them was about courts that were often very crowded, and it made the issue of access feel even more important and timely. This is one snapshot of the many ways that pickleball can be used to provide accessible, healthy activity and social connections for a wide range of people.

I know that many difficult decisions will be made this legislative session, but I encourage you to support CoRAA. All of CoRAA's projects have preventative healthcare benefits (both physical and mental), economic development impact, and will greatly enhance the quality of life here in Lane County.

Thank you for your time and service to Oregonians and for your support of this important coalition.

Sydney Putnam