

Submitter: Aimee Dhakhwa

On Behalf of: Osborn Aquatic Center

Committee: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment, or Topic: SB5531

Hi. My name is Aimee Dhakhwa, a resident of Corvallis and a part of the Corvallis Aquatic Team family. I am writing to request support in granting \$5 million in funds to repair Osborn Aquatic Center's roof. My family and our community have been greatly impacted by Osborn Aquatic's closure since the beginning of October 2024.

I have 4 children - ages 14 to 23 - who learned to swim at Osborn Center and joined the Corvallis Aquatic Team as soon as they were able to do so. The pool is their second home and the team is their second family. I know that when my children are at the pool, they are safe and they are happy. My 3 older children have already finished, but they carry with them the experiences they had with their teammates and their coaches. I want that for my youngest child. But with Osborn's closure, the team has been split-up. The team - comprised of many top swimmers in Oregon - no longer have a home. They practice at many area pools - some of which are not competition pools. They no longer have the same interaction between older and younger groups because they are all separated. The swimmers move around from one pool to another, hoping not to forget their gear. As a parent, I have to keep track day-to-day where my child is supposed to be. (I actually dropped off my child at the wrong pool the other day.) Practicing in non-competitive pools was a challenge for both Corvallis Aquatic Team and High School Team swimmers because they need to practice their dives and their backstroke turns. Nonetheless, all the swimmers and the entire Oregon Swimming community have come together to help us.

We ask that you also support us. We would like for the Corvallis community to have their pool back the way it was before.

Thank you.

Aimee