

Gabriela Hernandez Garcia
Adelante Mujeres, Chicas Youth Development Program
March 17, 2025

Chair Courtney Neron
Vice-Chair Emily McIntire
Vice-Chair April Dobson
Members of the House Education Committee

RE: Opposition to HB 2007 – Supporting Holistic Afterschool and Summer Programming for Youth

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson, and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Gabriela Hernandez Garcia, and I am a Youth Advocate for the Chicas Youth Development Program at Adelante Mujeres. I urge you to oppose HB 2007 in its current form and to support comprehensive afterschool and summer programming that meets the diverse needs of Oregon's youth.

HB 2007 focuses solely on summer literacy initiatives, overlooking the broader needs of students, especially those from underserved communities. A holistic approach that integrates academics with enrichment opportunities is essential for fostering students' social, emotional, and personal growth.

Afterschool and summer programs provide safe, engaging environments where students develop leadership skills, explore interests beyond the classroom, and build strong community connections. Programs incorporating STEM, arts, civic engagement, and mentorship have been proven to enhance academic performance, self-confidence, and future readiness.

Additionally, HB 2007 does not build upon the progress made with HB 4082, which emphasized the importance of extended learning. Disregarding these advancements and prioritizing only literacy-focused summer programs is a step backward.

I urge the committee to revise HB 2007 to ensure adequate funding for afterschool and summer programs. These initiatives bridge opportunity gaps, build resilience, and provide the well-rounded education our youth need to thrive.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Oregon's youth. Please expand HB 2007's scope to reflect students' true needs and prioritize holistic learning programs.

Sincerely,

Gabriela Hernandez Garcia
Adelante Mujeres, Chicas Youth Development Program