

Submitter: Adrienne Godschalx
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4112

Chair Hudson, Vice Chair McIntire, Vice Chair Dobson, and members of the committee,

Thank you for hearing testimony in support of HB 41-12 today. My name is Dr. Adrienne Godschalx. I am a Biology professor at a local college.

Outdoor School is the reason I became a scientist. Shortly after my family moved to Oregon in 2002, I discovered the opportunity to be a High School Student Leader at Outdoor School.

I saw, firsthand, the power of students experiencing wonder from learning about a river in a real, live forest. From that moment on, I wanted to pursue a deeper understanding of the world around us and re-create moments of awe for students for the rest of my life.

And now, over 20 years later, I still credit the Outdoor School Program for my professional success—and my students' success.

Throughout my career, I have re-created elements of the Outdoor School model in every classroom, conference, and team I have led. Over and over, the educational secret is to create a community around learning through experience. By living it, together.

Students graduate, ready to take on and make a difference in their respective fields.

To harness ODS techniques is to invest in our workforce for industries that our state and country desperately need revitalized.

For the past three years, I have taught pre-nursing students. For several years before that, I trained agricultural consultants in soil biology.

Agriculture and healthcare are two industries that our state and country desperately need re-enlivened with passionate community members. That is what Outdoor School can offer.

I have seen, first hand, how ODS generates positive outcomes across all job sectors, making Outdoor School the most effective workforce development program in the state.

As someone who cares deeply about the future of Oregonians, I ask you to support

HB 41-12.

If you care about Oregon youth, you will invest in their bright future by restoring funding for Outdoor School.

Thank you.

Adrienne Godschalx
Portland, OR 97239