



February 17, 2015

Re: House Bill 2650

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee,

Please accept this letter in support of House Bill 2650. This bill would provide grants for school districts to open doors of qualifying schools to youth during the summer for meals, reading materials, the statewide summer reading program and learning opportunities.

As a district librarian, one of my long-term goals has been to open more school libraries to students during the summer. Rather than have books sit unused over the summer, they should be getting into the hands of students who may not have access to reading materials at home or may not be able to visit a local public library. The SL3 Summer Learning Partnership strives to connect various programs together that serve youth during the summer months to provide them with meals and reduce summer learning loss. The three main components of SL3 are Summer Learning, Summer Library, and Summer Lunch. One of SL3's program outcomes is that "Youth will maintain or improve their reading, math, and critical thinking skills during the summer through access to healthy meals and expanded learning opportunities."

SL3 began as a pilot program in the summer of 2012 as a partnership between OregonASK and the National Summer Learning Association in collaboration with the USDA Food Service Program. During the summer of 2014, 21 sites in Marion and Polk counties participated in the program. They committed to opening school libraries for circulation around times when meals were being served, provided the statewide summer reading program and offered learning activities for youth. For the summer of 2015, 141 potential sites were identified across the state based on 50% or more Free or Reduced lunch rates and reading scores.

Several resources are included at the end of this letter with more information about summer learning loss. Thank you for your consideration of HB 2650 to expand summer learning opportunities for youth across Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Takeda". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenny Takeda
OASL Secretary
District Librarian
Beaverton School District | 16550 SW Merlo Rd. | Beaverton, OR 97003

Resources on Summer Reading and Summer Learning:

“Importance of Summer Reading: a research brief on summer reading and public library summer reading programs” from the New York State Library

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/research.htm>

“On the Slip and Slide” from *Today's OEA Magazine*: June 2014 Issue, pages 20-25.

http://issuu.com/todaysoea/docs/toea_june2014_v4

OregonASK SL3 Information:

<http://www.oregonask.org/articles/sl3>

“Summer Reading and the Rich/Poor Achievement Gap: An Educator Responds to Questions” from *School Library Journal*, June 2013.

<http://www.slj.com/2013/06/standards/curriculum-connections/summer-reading-and-the-richpoor-achievement-gap-an-educator-responds-to-questions/#>

“Summer Reading: Research shows the most damage to reading skills occurs outside school during the summer months. But not for all kids.”

<http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/summer-reading.pdf>