



TO: The Oregon State House Committee on Housing and Human Services
FR: Maura C. Roche, Volunteer Program Director, Camp Blue Spruce
DA: April 3, 2015
RE: Testimony in Support of HB 3292

Chair Kenny-Guyer, Members of the Committee, I serve as the volunteer Program Director of Camp Blue Spruce and I am pleased to submit testimony in support of HB 3292. HB 3292 will clarify in statute the relationship between summer camps and their rental facilities and the programs they control directly and those programs controlled by renters.

Camp Blue Spruce is a not-for-profit organization formed in 2012. We are one of only two sleep away camps in the country to serve children with life-threatening food allergies. We provide a worry-free summer camp experience safe from the 10 major food allergens. In the last 15 years, the number of children in the US to develop food allergies has increased by 50%.

Camp Blue Spruce will be having its third season this summer. We host one week of camp and have tripled in size since we started. Because we are such a specialty camp at this point we only have one session. We are growing so quickly we will likely go to two weeks in 2016, however, it is still likely to be some time before we could attract enough participants to open a camp for the entire summer or raise the capitol to purchase our own camp. Therefore for now, we are renter of camp facilities.

Some of the kids who come to our camp have never eaten in a restaurant or had a sleep over at a friend's house. Coming to summer camp for a week is a big deal for both the kids and the parents. Aside from hives or other discomforts, one of the primary food allergy reactions is anaphylaxis, which can quickly result in death.

Camp Blue Spruce takes every precaution, we have an active medical committee, a detailed food vetting protocol, we purchase and bring in all kitchen equipment we deem not able to clean to our satisfaction, all staff are first aid certified and anaphylaxis certified, we have every staffer outfitted with an epi-pen and have epi-pens in all the buildings. Our track record is 100% safe, we have never had a reaction at camp and we are very proud of that!

However, given the high-risk nature of our camp program, if there is not sufficient clarification in statute about assumption of risk/liability between camp facilities and camp rentals, we could face the real possibility of camps being unwilling to rent to us.

Again, HB 3292 will clarify in statute the roles and responsibilities of camps and those who rent camp facilities. Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony and I strongly support moving this bill forward.

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