

February 28, 2017

Senator Mark Hass, Chair
Members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Hass and Members of the Committee,

Impact NW is pleased to support the passage of SB 123. Impact NW is a non-profit that helps people prosper through a community of support. We provide early childhood services, housing support, services to seniors and adults with disabilities, and youth and family services. We particularly support school readiness and success through our school-based programs. We have witnessed and documented the success of those programs in lifting the hopes and skills of children in poverty.

We believe that SB 123 would be crucial to helping programs that have not been as fortunate as those in Portland, which benefit from having sustainable funding for children's programs through the Portland Children's Levy. Establishing the opportunity to allow children's special districts through citizen petition will provide communities the opportunity to have a choice in determining their own ability to support the academic and career success of our children.

At Impact NW, we have been fortunate to obtain federal 21st Century grants to provide the SHINE afterschool program in four schools in Beaverton, but that funding only lasts for 5 years and will end next year. We are concerned that there is no local source of sustainable funding for these and other vitally important after school and summer programs. It is in the best interest of children throughout the state to provide the opportunity to establish children's special districts.

I would be happy to answer any questions about our program and the positive outcomes we have experienced through the funding provided by the Portland Children's Levy.

Sincerely,



Jeff Cogen
Executive Director

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OUR MISSION: To help people prosper through a community of support.