



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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April 23, 2019

Oregon House Human Services and Housing Committee - Attn: Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chairs Noble and Sanchez, Representatives Helt, Meek, Mitchell, Schouten, Williams, and Zika,

Oregon is challenged by a lack of success for many of our kids with one of the lowest graduation rates in the country. It is time to close this disparity that is holding so many youth back in our great State.

As a supporter of the Washington County Kids initiative, we urge you to support passing SB543, which will add children's service districts to the 28 currently allowed special districts and provide critically needed out of school youth development services to the County.

Our kids desperately need these important services:

- 92% of Washington County children who qualify for federal and state early childhood programs do not receive them
- 63% of K-12 Washington County kids do not have affordable, enrichment based after school programs available to them
- Additionally, 95% of K-12 Washington County kids do not have affordable, enrichment based summer programs available to them

Children without access to out of school programming fall behind an average of three years by the 5th grade, which is leading to a growing middle school drop-out trend. Boys & Girls Clubs and programs like it, support youth academically, build character/leadership skills, and help them to lead healthy, active lives and to grow socially and emotionally. Our programs can employ teens and dive deeper with youth who are struggling with emotional and behavioral issues. In addition, many provide meals - all services the Inukai Boys & Girls Club of Hillsboro provides our youth, but struggles to meet the growing need.

These services also help families, as parents experience less absenteeism in the workforce knowing their children are in a safe, vibrant, affordable place during out of school hours. This also has a positive impact on the economy with a more stable workforce. Additionally, Boys & Girls Clubs benefit schools by supporting youth socially, emotionally, and academically by providing trauma informed care and addressing challenges that schools increasingly face on a daily basis.

Currently, funds are inadequate to support the programs needed in Washington County. SB543 would allow organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs to scale across the county to serve the growing number of underserved families. Most youth based non-profits rely largely on fundraising to generate much needed funding to serve youth; those resources are inadequate to meet the present and future need.

As a concerned Oregonian and youth development provider, we urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you,

Erin Hubert
CEO Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro

Rachel Schutz
VP Club Services/Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro

CLUB LOCATIONS

BLAZERS CLUB
5250 NE MLK Jr. Blvd.
Portland, OR 97211

INUKAI FAMILY CLUB
560 SE 3rd Ave.
Hillsboro, OR 97123

OAK GROVE CLUB
1905 SE Oak Grove Blvd.
Oak Grove, OR 97267

REGENCE CLUB
4430 N. Trenton
Portland, OR 97203

ROCKWOOD CLUB
454 SE 165th St.
Portland, OR 97233

WATTLES CLUB
9330 SE Harold St.
Portland, OR 97266

**ALDER CREEK
MIDDLE SCHOOL**
School-based Club

**LOT WHITCOMB
ELEMENTARY**
School-based Club

**MARGARET SCOTT
ELEMENTARY**
School-based Club

**WILBUR ROWE
MIDDLE SCHOOL**
School-based Club