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Subject: Senate Bill 299 Children's Service District — SUPPORT

Oregon Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
Chair Ginny Burdick
Senators Brian Boquist, Lynn Findley, Rob Wagner, Chuck Riley

How could I not sign on to support SB 299 or how could you not support it? When the need is great with the opportunity to do something constructive without asking for State funds; when that opportunity presents itself with people committed to the welfare of our children, stepping up to the task to do the right thing is appreciated.

I signed on as a supporter of 'Out of School Time' legislation when requested to do so by Senator Chuck Riley. After reading the following letter and the evidence presented, it matched my thoughts and insights about what children need – things to do/be where they can be safe and productive learning and associating with positive role models. I was fortunate to have volunteers in La Grande, Oregon who started and ran a Little League Baseball program. I started participating every summer when I was nine years old. I played American Legion Summer baseball. If there were fees to play sports, it was so small that my parents who struggled to make ends meet, could pay the few dollars required. That 'Out of School Time' program gave me my career path – and helped form my character.

I also played four years of High School Varsity Baseball (worked at Albertson's Food during my last 2 years in high school and all four years of college) and played four years of Varsity College Baseball at Eastern Oregon College.

After earning a B.S. in Elementary Education in 1966, I started teaching 5th grade in Forest Grove. In 2019, I attended Jack Rainey's memorial service in Salem. He started the little league baseball program in LaGrande, mentored me from age nine, all the way through high school and got me that Elk's scholarship to play baseball at EOC. At Mr. Rainey's memorial service, former Congressman Rod Chandler said "I have no doubt that young men and women who never heard of Jack Rainey have excelled in life because he influenced them through **his** students and players. It is surely intended to be that way. We are all given the chance to serve. Jack Rainey certainly made the most of his opportunity." See attachment titled Jack Rainey Rod Chandler Eulogy April 6, 2019. He quotes one of my former American Legion Team members, Greg Blackman, who participated in that Out of School Time program.

My point: Out of School Time programs have very lasting life-time positive consequences. Please support SB 299.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Feik, Ed.D., Reading Education; M.Ed., Counseling; M.S., Special Education; last assignment: self-contained classroom of 15 elementary students labeled as having emotional disabilities; previous assignments: resource room teacher for six-through ninth-grade students, coordinator of an elementary Title I reading project; retired from teaching in 1999 after serving low-performing students for over thirty years. Certificates: Superintendent, Principal, and specialty teaching.

As supporters of the Washington County Kids, a collaborative of over 150 individuals and organizations dedicated to increasing awareness of the need for access to out of school time (OST-early childhood, after school, and summer) programs, we urge you to support the passage of SB299 to add children's service districts to the 28 currently allowed special districts.

Senator Chuck Riley – Senate District 15

Vote YES on SB 299 – The Children's Service Districts Bill

Currently there is a lack of program availability along with inadequate funding to provide support outside of school time for children under the age of 18.

These programs have demonstrated success in improving child and youth well-being.

Senate Bill 299 would establish a new type of district to provide Children's Services outside of school time. "Children's Services" are broadly defined so that a community can customize the services being offered to best meet their children's unique needs outside of school hours.

What is a Children's Service District?

- Examples of Children's Services include, but are not limited to: early childhood, after school & summer programs, which may include culture, arts & music, health

& well-being, technology, and development of skills services for children and youth.

- This is a new tool to provide local funding for Children’s Services that occur outside of school time.
- How big is a Children’s Service District? As large or as small as the community wants it to be. The boundary could be a neighborhood, a town, part of a county, a whole county, or parts of multiple counties.
- Communities that are uninterested are under no obligation to form a Children’s Service District, just like they are not obligated to form an irrigation special district under existing law.

How is a Children’s Service District Formed?

If a community wants to establish a Children’s Service District to fund one or more services for children outside of school time, they must:

1. File a petition to form the district in the county in which it would be located including a proposed permanent rate limit for operating taxes sufficient to support the services
2. The petition must be signed by either 10% of registered voters within the proposed district boundary or a minimum of 100 registered voters within the proposed district boundary (whichever is greater)
3. If enough signatures are gathered and filed with the applicable county, the petition is voted on by all registered voters in the proposed district area. Board members would be elected at the same time
4. If passed, a Children’s Service District is formed.

SB 299 allows formation of a Children’s Service District (similar to the Portland Children’s Levy which has passed four times) to fund early childhood, after school, and summer programs (out-of-school-time - O.S.T. - programs). Similar programs have been passed in Seattle, Missouri, San Francisco, and Florida.

Sen. Chuck Riley

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