



Board of Directors

January 25, 2023

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President

Barbie Minor
Secretary

Alfredo Moreno
Secretary Pro-Tem

Heidi Edwards
Director

Tya Ping
Director

Sen. Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 531 relating to funding for programs offered during non-school hours

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 531 (SB 531), which would appropriate funds from the General Fund to the Department of Education (ODE) for summer and afterschool programs.

General Manager

Doug Menke

On behalf of the more than 270,000 community members served by Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD), we respectfully request you accept this letter as public comment in the record for SB 531. THPRD services over 50 square miles that includes the City of Beaverton and eastern Washington County, and shares a similar boundary with the Beaverton School District. We partner with the school district in many ways to serve our shared stakeholders of over 39,000 kindergarten through 12th grade students and their families. As a park and recreation provider, it is our duty and mission to provide high-quality park and recreation facilities, programs, services, and natural areas that meet the needs of the diverse communities we serve.

We urge the Senate to approve funding to ODE to continue the critical services to students outside of typical school hours. Last year, funding from ODE's Summer Learning Opportunities program helped support 10 weeks of summer programs, which included:

- Rec Mobiles, which provided free athletic, artistic, and education programs at local schools (in conjunction with their meal programs), parks, and housing complexes.
- Nature Mobile, a mobile classroom that brings environmental education programs to schools, parks, libraries, and neighborhoods across the district. Staff provide fun, nature, and science learning opportunities and hands-on activities to capture the imagination of young people and help them understand the role of nature in their lives.
- Camp Rivendale scholarships and adaptive equipment for individuals experiencing disabilities. These camps provide support and companionship to both youth and adult participants.
- Scholarships for an additional 738 children to participate in a variety of summer camps - both full and half-day options - that focus on general interests as well as sports, nature, music, dance, drama, and aquatics.
- Additionally, these funds supported the district's ability to provide lifeguard prep classes, volunteer development, increased transportation, and the presentation of a bilingual Safety Town experience.

THPRD stands ready to work with ODE to provide an additional slate of enrichment activities for the children within our district during the summer of 2023 should this funding be continued. We urge the Senate to recognize the importance of meeting the recreational, social, and emotional needs of youth within the state by ensuring that the Summer Learning Opportunities funding continues into 2023.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. Please contact Aisha Panas, Deputy General Manager, at a.panas@thprd.org or by phone at 503-816-5804 if you have questions.

Sincerely,


Felicita MontebLANCO
THRPD Board President


Barbie Minor
THRPD Board Secretary


Alfredo Moreno
THRPD Board Secretary Pro-Tem


Heidi Edwards
THRPD Board Member


Tya Ping
THRPD Board Member