

Submitter: Alicia Bay  
On Behalf Of: Gilbert House Childrens Museum  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB531

As the Executive Director of Gilbert House Children’s Museum, I have been working with youth and families in this role for over seven years. We were happy to be a recipient of Oregon Community Summer grant funds in 2022 and are taking this opportunity to share our most sincere support of Senate Bill 531.

Gilbert House Children’s Museum provides enriching opportunities for children year-round. However, we welcome a large percentage of those families in the summer months. Low-cost admission, reciprocal opportunities, and membership make Gilbert House Children’s Museum experiences accessible to most families in our community.

Last summer, with \$50,000 in funding from the state, our program provided 15,000 students with quality programming in our Gilbert Engineering Studio, Creative Space, and new Gilbert Test Lab. In these exhibits, educators work with students to provide similar activities as those provided in our summer camp and workshop programs. The exhibits continue to be available year-round to our visitors. The substantial support from the state provided funding for the infrastructure and supplies for a quality program at the museum that continues to serve families.

Sustainable funding and systemic support are key to improving experiences at Gilbert House Children’s Museum. I ask that you please support Senate Bill 531 and get funds into our communities sooner to help ensure we can meet the needs of those continuing to struggle within our inequitable systems.