



Attn: Senate Committee on Education

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Katie Ebbage and I am Executive Director at Solid Strides. As the Executive Director of Solid Strides I have been working with youth and families in Lane County for 2 years. We were elated 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.

We know that Oregon is rich with summer opportunities but in our community, we see the barriers and unequal access to horse sports for historically excluded riders including under-resourced, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and LGBTQIA youth.

Last summer, with \$34,524, our program provided 94 kids with in one or more of our three summer camp programs. We know that there are kids in our community who face a multitude of barriers restricting them from entry to equine sport. This could help them thrive in this world.

We know that this is just one example of why it is critically important to support Oregon youth and families with access to meaningful, relevant summer opportunities. Every Oregon youth deserves access to safe, inclusive, and welcoming summer learning environments that will help them become a thriving adult.

In order to continue our work of reaching the historically excluded, sustainable funding and systemic support is key. As a constituent, 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.

We would also welcome a virtual meeting or program visit for you to hear more about the impact we have seen in young people and throughout our community.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to support youth and families in Solid Strides.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Ebbage". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Katie Ebbage**  
**Executive Director**

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