

Submitter: Andrew Zugner

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans

Measure: HB2410

Dear Oregon State House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed \$4.5 million in lottery bonds for the Ontario Community Rec Center. In my 15 years working as an educator and living in Ontario, one of the major issues that we have experienced is the lack of resources that we can provide our youth. As a parent and an educator this is worrisome as our youth are stagnant in their overall growth potential as they feel as though there is no movement happening in making our city better. This is due to very limited places for our youth to go that are safe and engaging. As a parent, my family and I have to go to Idaho for family friendly activities that are none sport related. By having this money we would be adding resources and a safe place for kids to go.

As an educator, of middle school students, these funds would go a long way in helping provide a place for our kids to go that is close to our schools. With a complete rec center that is focused on providing resources for kids to reach their potential while also being a place for them to relax and be with their peers. This would give our at risk students a place to go for mentoring and to have a place to be with their friends. In a high poverty area, this would be something that would be cost effective for our youth instead of roaming the streets throughout the day and evenings when not in school.

If we were to get these funds, we would also be supporting the smaller communities around us in Vale, Nyssa, Harper and many more as they have limited resources as well.

I ask that you highly consider and help Ontario with this legislation in the hopes to creating a culture shift as we tackle the issue of poverty head on by creating more community through the use of this facility that has not been existent since 2012. This would be something that would be used year round and help our community grow and be a community in Eastern Oregon that the whole state would appreciate.

Sincerely,
Andrew Zugner
OMS PE/Health teacher
OHS Head Track & Field Coach
Ontario Resident.