



Testimony SB 858  
Oregon State Senate Finance and Revenue Committee  
Children's Service District  
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Participant of Record:

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Chair Meek, Vice Chair Boquist, Senator Findley, Senator Golden and Senator Jama and McLain, members of the Committee. My name is Martha Brooks and I am the State Director of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids and ReadyNation, two bipartisan, non-profit organizations under Council for A Strong America. Our members are senior law enforcement officials and business leaders, with more than 200 members in Oregon. Our law enforcement members believe that protecting public safety includes promoting investments that steer kids away from crime and get them started on the right track in life. Our business leaders yearn for a viable, educated workforce. The key to that achievement is investing in kids of all ages so that they graduate from high school.

**This is why Fight Crime: Invest in Kids and ReadyNation support SB 858 that would allow communities and municipalities to determine their own levies to pay for programs that would benefit children, keep them out of trouble and headed towards success in life.**

Our members know first-hand the importance of out-of-school time programming and the lack of those resources. Evidence-based programs provided for in out-of-school time activities are important contributions in reducing crime and improving students' behaviors, academic performance, employability, and graduation rate. Employers need workers who have specific practical skills as well as skills like problem-solving, effective communication, collaboration, and critical thinking that can be provided in these extracurricular activities.

While this measure does not ask the State for funds, it does give voters the ability to determine where they want to spend their money. It allows citizens to organize and propose resources in their own communities through children's service districts. In short, communities decide.

**We support investments in Oregon's children that would allow them to participate in out-of-school-time programs that include early learning, after school and during the summer. We support greater access to quality programs – especially culturally specific services. That is why we ask you to support and pass SB 858.**

Programs for kids of all ages deserve your utmost attention and care, but most of all, they need your support.

Thank you.