

FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Generational Change,
One Child at a Time

Klamath Basin

Date: March 23, 2023
To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means - Human Services Subcommittee
From: Amanda Squibb, Executive Director, Friends of the Children – Klamath Basin
RE: Support POP 406 of SB 5525

Dear Co-chair Campos, Co-chair Valderrama, Members of the Committee:

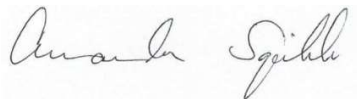
I am writing in support of **SB 5525, particularly POP 406**, which will invest \$286 million in further modernizing our statewide public health system, including \$100 million to support community-based organizations.

This investment is especially crucial for community-based organizations (CBOs) that connect individuals with vital resources. Thanks to community trust, CBOs are in a unique position to make these connections and fill healthcare service gaps, and we have proven our success doing this work through our collaboration on the state's COVID-19 pandemic response.

Friends of the Children – Klamath Basin is one of more than 170 CBOs in Oregon that has provided COVID-19 education, vaccination clinics, housing support and stabilization, culturally-specific food distribution, health and health insurance navigation, wraparound services, and other supports since 2020.

While the state's emergency declaration will end in May, community needs persist, and I urge you to support the \$286 million that will improve our public health system and give CBOs increased capacity to support community health and stability.

Sincerely,



Amanda Squibb
Executive Director

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