

Submitter: Eric Johnston

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5014

March 22, 2023

Senate Education Committee 900 Court St. NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Committee Members: RE: SB 5014 – Oregon Department of Education Budget Bill

Todos Juntos is a non-profit serving rural Clackamas County, and asks you to pass SB 5014, the Oregon Department of Education Budget Bill. There is a a vital need for youth to be involved in after-school activities, especially in rural communities that lack the resources to provide quality after-schools programming in Oregon and your support is critical to ensuring that youth and families are able to fully access the educational and enrichment activities that every child deserves.

Todos Juntos' mission is to 'Create Connections that Empower, Educate and Inspire Children, Youth and Families. We Value and Celebrate Diversity. Todos Juntos was founded in 2000 and has developed a Community School Model of in-school and after-school best practice program delivery for students K-12 in 4 rural Clackamas County communities; Canby, Molalla, Sandy and Estacada. Todos Juntos staff are housed in (9) schools with in-kind access to school office space, classrooms, cafeterias and field space in which to offer programming to over 1,800 youth and families. Rural communities lack the traditional support that urban communities enjoy. Mainly transportation and access to quality services. In order to provide needed programming supports, local delivery is identified and facilitated by staff that are hired locally, many of whom are teachers that elect to extend their school day. Todos Juntos Site Management Staff work with Counselors to identify students that are in need of social, emotional and academic support as they are referred and participate in the wide variety of after school support programming.

The Oregon Department of Education Budget Bill will better empower organizations like Todos Juntos to have consistent funding and resources. By recognizing the need to support quality efforts to support after-school evidence-based and equitable approaches that address physical, academic and social/emotional needs to include mental health and behavioral issues, will enable us to enhance our efforts to impact kids and the overall school environment. Todos Juntos has been serving these communities for over 23 years with funding cobbled together through local State ODE, Clackamas County and Community resources as well as Foundational funds. It would be well received to have stable funding as well as our traditional combined funding to enhance existing program services that lead to better outcomes for all youth.

Respectfully,

Eric Johnston  
Executive Director