



February 5th, 2024

To: House Education Committee  
From: Our Children Oregon, The Children's Agenda  
RE: Support of HB 4082, Expand Afterschool and Summer Learning

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson, Wright and Members of the Committee

Our Children Oregon (OCO) is a statewide organization that advances equitable policies, data and research, and whole-child advocacy. The Children's Agenda, convened by OCO, brings together ~135 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to improving the well-being of Oregon's children, youth, and families. Our collective created a 2024 legislative agenda that focuses on community-driven solutions to provide access and opportunities for all children and families.

Every child, youth, and teen in Oregon should have access to afterschool and summer learning opportunities. Yet, nearly 221,000 children statewide are not participating due to current systemic barriers causing disproportionate disparities based on race, zip code, ability, language, identity, and income level.<sup>1</sup> These children and youth lose valuable opportunities and experiences to learn, grow, and play during the school year and summer months. Alarming, research shows that children who do not attend afterschool and summer programs have a learning loss of up to 65% in academic performance. Furthermore, data shows that Oregon ranks 44th in the nation for education outcomes<sup>2</sup>. This is why **Expanding Afterschool and Summer Learning (HB 4082) is a top priority of the 2024 Children's Agenda.**

**We support HB 4082 to ensure *all* youth have access to Afterschool and Summer Learning**, especially those from our underserved communities including youths of color, Tribal/Indigenous youths, youths with disabilities, youths navigating poverty, and youths in rural communities:

- Funding to qualifying organizations that support, reduce, or remove barriers for Oregon's underserved children and youth while ensuring safe youth development opportunities in afterschool and in the summer. This includes working with and prioritizing community-based and culturally-specific organizations.
- Funding to continue Oregon's commitment to equity for youth communities most affected by systemic barriers and injustices.
- Establishing a workgroup to provide recommendations on addressing summer funding

<sup>1</sup> [https://oregonask.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Access-\\_-Equity-Report-Final.pdf](https://oregonask.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Access-_-Equity-Report-Final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://ourchildrenoregon.org/publications/national-kids-count/>

long-term.

- We must provide accessible and affordable summer learning opportunities for youth if we expect them to become thriving members of society.

**To ensure equitable access for families, we must provide ongoing funding for new and current high-quality, culturally-responsive afterschool and summer programs.** This will improve academic performance, social and emotional growth, and holistic experiences for Oregon’s children and youth. We thank you for your time and efforts to improve child well-being across the state. We urge your support of HB 4082.

Sincerely,

Our Children Oregon  
OregonASK  
Children’s Institute  
Clackamas Women’s Services  
Community Action Team/Child & Family  
Development Programs  
FACT Oregon  
Family Forward Oregon  
Farmworker Housing Development Corp.  
IRCO  
Latino Network  
Metropolitan Family Service

Nurse-Family Partnership  
Oregon Alliance of YMCAs  
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries  
Oregon Association of Student Councils  
Oregon AG’s Sexual Assault Task Force  
Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials  
Oregon Primary Care Association  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon  
Southern Oregon Success  
Trillium Family Services  
Washington County Kids



View the 2024 Children’s Agenda at [www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2024-childrens-agenda](http://www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2024-childrens-agenda)