

Submitter: Laura Rariden  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: HB4082

Good day!

I am the Executive Director of Creswell Clubhouse. A small, nonprofit, rural youth development organization. The only one of its kind in Creswell. I am writing in support of providing funding for summer, and hopefully after school, care for school age youth. Last summer, without summer funding, nearly wiped out all our savings. We were committed to keeping our tuition rates low while still providing a stellar program. In the prior two years, state funding allowed us to provide additional scholarships to families in need and lower our tuition rates to an amount families could afford. We were able to heavily staff our education center and really help children who needed extra support to grow their reading and math skills to grade level.

Without summer funding again this year, we will need to raise our tuition and limit our spending. This will include raising our staff ratio from 1:8 to 1:12 and slimming down our offerings of enrichment clubs and activities. Parents are getting desperate and many will not be able to afford care at all if we raise our rates. This leaves children home alone or supervised by older siblings. This is not ideal for their development.

Thank you and I encourage you to vote yes on HB 4082! :) Laura Rariden