



Building Healthy Families

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Testimony of Building Healthy Families on HB 4082

Maria Weer, Executive Director, Building Healthy Families

Building Healthy Families urges your support for HB 4082, establishing and administration the Summer Learning Program.

Building Healthy Families has been worked to provide summer learning opportunities for rural and frontier youth across Eastern Oregon for over 20 years. As programs and needs have grown, funding has not followed. In fact, it has been greatly reduced. This inability to sustain and build programs has not only been detrimental to children, but has had negative impacts on our parents, employers and economic community as a whole. Lack of funding for summer programming, in communities already identified as “Childcare Deserts” has resulted in parents leaving the work force to stay home with their children. This has exacerbated the staffing shortages already deeply felt by employers. Unfortunately, this problem is not new, just continuing to grow. Below the link to an Op-Ed written and published in the Portland Tribune last year as we worked to move legislation supporting summer learning funds. From our site of the State, we have only seen the concerns addressed in the article to grow. Please support HB 4802 and help our communities thrive.

https://www.portlandtribune.com/opinion/our-opinion-oregon-legislature-can-invest-in-community-based-and-tribal-learning-opportunities/article_96a48894-da47-11ed-a15d-b73ddcf6c0e0.html

Building Healthy Families strengthens families through proven family education and support programs and helps create family environments that assure children’s school readiness, success and life skills.