

Submitter: Lisa Batey

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital  
Construction

Measure: HB5201

Thank you Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, and Committee Members:

I was prepared to testify in today's hearing, but given your panel's time constraints am writing in support of the request of the Clackamas County Children's Commission for funding to purchase and renovate shuttered YMCA childcare center to create additional capacity to address the childcare desert in Clackamas County, and in Milwaukie in particular.

The lack of facilities is the single biggest barrier to expanding Head Start programming in our community, a situation that has worsened recently with termination of a lease by the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners without much notice. All that is needed is this one-time investment to help address the childcare deficit for years, probably decades, to come.

There is a dire need for more capacity to serve Milwaukie families – Milwaukie schools are Title 1 schools and our families face the longest waitlist of any area served by the Clackamas County Children's Commission. No other locations have been identified that are zoned for childcare, have the adequate outdoor space and sufficient classroom space that the YMCA location provides.

The YMCA property, located on Highway 224 and served by TriMet bus lines, has been sitting empty since 2020 and the building could be utilized within a short timeframe to provide excellent services to families most in need in Clackamas County.

Please approve the requested one-time funds to purchase and renovate the YMCA property and thereby provide relief to struggling families in northern Clackamas County.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Mayor Lisa Batey, City of Milwaukie