



HB 2007

Testimony of BB360

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As a community-based organization deeply involved in summer learning and programming, BB360 (formerly B'nai Brith Camp) is concerned about many of the aspects of HB 2007.

BB360 is a community based organization that operates overnight and day camps in Lincoln County and several Oregon locations – as well as a host of year round programs including the free PJ Library Program – all designed to improve the lives of children and families in the communities where we operate.

In a typical year, we provide services to over 5,500 children through our variety of programs, camps, youth groups, and special events. In addition, our Lincoln County Food program has served over 12,840 meals and provided over \$330,000 in scholarships to over 550 participants last year alone.

Following the Legislature's work on HB 4082 last session, HB 2007 legislation appears to roll back many of the recommendations made and change the scope of the grant program approved last session to focus on a very narrow part of the educational work many CBOs provide to thousands of children across Oregon.

The current form of the bill narrowly defines literacy to exclude many of the enrichment programs recommended in HB 4082 and the recommendations from the work group it created. Narrowing the scope of programs will not better serve students, but will serve to exclude many of them from participation in summer programs that provide them a wealth of opportunities to improve their skills and prepare them for more success during the school year.

In addition, we are concerned about the following aspects of HB 2007:

- **HB 2007 does not currently align with what research offers as a roadmap for high-quality programs.** HB 2007 institutes an over-reliance on a narrow

definition of literacy. Students who are behind on reading are not likely to attend programs that are solely focused on literacy. We must recognize research and how students learn and are motivated. A more holistic approach is needed as envisioned by HB 4082.

- **Match requirements should be eliminated** as they will serve to exclude many CBOs, districts, ESDs, and tribes, disproportionately affecting smaller, rural entities such as the programs we offer in Lincoln County.
- **Retain the goals of HB 4082.** This bill replaces the three core requirements (academic enrichment, youth development, and equitable access) and substitutes what appears to be a narrow definition of literacy which takes us backward to a system that was not working in our state.

HB 4082 strongly supported a well-researched and much debated program to provide summer learning support and enrichment for students across Oregon. We are at a loss to understand why HB 2007 seeks to roll back the recommendations and programs after just a single biennium.

We urge strong reconsideration of or amendments to HB 2007, and a return to the goals, recommendations, and programs established by HB 4082.

Thank you.