

Submitter: Corey Hedger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3039

Dear Education House Committee,

I write this letter in favor of HB 3039 as a proud educator and a parent. I have been involved with education for 10 years and have a son who is about to enter public school age. As an educator I have seen first hand the benefits of summer education programs on the outcomes of high school students and how they have positively changed the trajectory of a students life. When I was teaching in Klamath County in Southern Oregon, I was the social studies teacher serving at Bonanza High School which helped students recover missing credits and even led to some of those students being allowed to graduate. Without these summer programs students fall further behind and are left with an education gap and credit gap that can prevent a student from reaching their full potential and putting them further behind their classmates. I strongly encourage you to support students, teachers, and future generations by supporting and funding summer programs and I look forward to seeing the expansion of the program to reach schools who currently do not offer them.

On the subject of after school programs, this is a major issue that parents face like myself. As my spouse and I prepare for our children's future, we are currently looking for districts in our area that provide after school programs that allow us to move to a respected district and school as we also look for our long term residence. The issue we face and keep running in to is after school programs such as extended day are very hard to find or are no longer being used and are not readily available. As we have brought this discussion to our coworkers, who are also educators, they faced the same dilemma in the districts they lived in which forced them to move closer to their work and out of their preferred school district. By funding and offering extended day programs, this would help not just students gain a sense of community, but it would allow parents to not face the burden of having to move to have their students needs met while also being able to keep their work schedules. As a teacher it is impossible for me to get to my child's school when it is out, as my contract exceeds the school day by one hour. There must be a way for parents to rely on the school to care for the child until their contractual obligations are fulfilled and not just put the burden on the parent to change their job or contractual hours. As a kid who did take part in extended day programs, I was very grateful for those experiences and it helped my parents tremendously with contract requirements and peace of mind knowing the school was taking care of us. I would not change my extended day experience for the world.

I strongly support and encourage passage on HB 3039 as it will lead to success for future generations and will help working parents in the process.

Thanks,

Corey Hedger