

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my strong support for meaningful investment in the Oregon School for the Deaf (OSD)'s campus via SB 5505/5506, and to encourage you to advocate for implementing the next steps of their Long-Range Facilities Plan.

As the Inclusive Design Facilitator at Holst Architecture in Portland, I work to create environments that center accessibility, equity, and what we refer to at Holst as Disabled Joy—the right to not just exist but to thrive in spaces designed with care. We all deserve to have a fulfilling educational experience.

OSD, situated near the State Capitol yet long neglected by legislature, is more than a school. It is a cultural and linguistic hub where Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children gain the tools they need to succeed in a world that too often overlooks them. Investing in their education means investing in their futures, their agency, and their full participation in our communities. A well-resourced campus signals to these students that they are valued and deserving of dignity, safety, and opportunity. Having visited recently, I was appalled to see the state of the campus. Students there continue to thrive among incredible teacher and administrative support, but facilities are so demoralizing that potential students regularly tour the school and opt to not attend.

I urge you to champion this cause and ensure OSD receives the love, care, and investment it deserves. Thank you for your leadership in making Oregon a place where all students can thrive.

Sincerely,



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