

Submitter:	Levi Whittier
On Behalf Of:	Chintimini Wildlife Center
Committee:	Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB1131

I have lived my entire life in Oregon for nearly 33 years and I am writing in support of SB 1131. For the short time that I have been on this earth, I have admired the natural beauty of Oregon's ecosystems and wildlife, so much so that I studied Zoology at Oregon State University and volunteer at the Cascades Raptor Center. Also during that time I have seen the degradation of our native species. Ponds once teeming with the sound of Pacific Tree Frogs lay silent, tide pools overflow with urchins unchecked by starfish and more patients flood our remaining rehabilitation centers every year largely due to anthropogenic causes. Chintimini Wildlife Center is the last "all species" nature center in the Willamette Valley and provides an invaluable service to not only the local community in Corvallis, but over 5 counties in Oregon. I have seen their facilities first hand and know that they are overwhelmed with the 2000 patients that they receive every year. This bill would give them an opportunity to continue their work by covering operations and medical supplies required to help Oregon wildlife in need. I believe that this bill would be a positive step forward to protect our native wildlife and foster connections between Oregon residents and our wild neighbors.