

Testimony in support of SB 1131

Shortly after moving to Oregon in 1994 I found out about Chintimini Wildlife Center. As a lover of wildlife and someone who wanted to have a career in the wildlife sciences, I decided to volunteer with them. As a volunteer for over a year, I became keenly aware of all that they do for not only wildlife, but for our community. Many people throughout Benton County and our state care deeply about wildlife and when they encounter orphaned or injured wildlife they want to help. Chintimini gives them that opportunity. They take in injured or orphaned wildlife not just from Benton County, but from across the state. They are staffed by experts (veterinarians and technicians) in wildlife rehabilitation and volunteers who deeply care about wildlife. Not only do they give opportunity for the public to help wildlife, but they give opportunities to young people to learn about the field of wildlife rehabilitation. Not only can one volunteer there, but they can gain valuable knowledge and experience through their internship program. These opportunities are important not only for those interested in wildlife rehab, but also those going into veterinary medicine. Other important benefits of Chintimini Wildlife Center are their youth summer camps and outreach in the community. For as long as I've lived in the Corvallis community they've held summer camps for kids, teaching our young people about wildlife, conservation, and the environment. They also are very active in their outreach, attending many community events bringing their live bird ambassadors to thrill, educate and inform people young and old. I've been a supporter of Chintimini since moving here in 1994 and I hope you will too by supporting SB 1131!

Thank you,
Dorothy Wilson, Corvallis OR