

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Oregon Legislature,

I know from firsthand experience the need for this bill to be passed. My teenage son has been a part of the Cadet Civil Air Patrol program for several years.

Background:

When he first joined, the group was meeting weekly at a building on the Salem Airport grounds. As I understand at the time, the facility was unused and given to the group rent free. This was important because the group did no fund raising. The facility was also used to hold uniforms, flags, computer and radio equipment, and was set up for their weekly meetings (ie. Tables, chairs, large screen, etc.)

Then the Salem airport was refitted to have commercial traffic with an airline company and the group was instructed to move off the premises.

Senior members had to take all the items above listed into their homes, basements, barns, and garages. My son even took the pins for promotion and put them in his trunk for a year so that the cadets could easily access their ribbons and bars. Currently the equipment has a better storage location.

Current Need:

What has not been found, is a weekly meeting place. A church kindly allowed usaged for the year, but this facility was not large enough. Especially the once a week Physical Training could not be in this facility. This lead to a lot of frustration trying, but not always succeeding, in getting access to the National Guard building. Parents often did not know if access would be granted until the last minute. Adding to this annoyance, at one point during this year, 3 out of 4 meetings were at different locations.

This bill will bring much needed stability to this volunteer organization which benefits our state in emergencies and benefits our city's youth.

There is an added benefit for the National Guard: recruitment!

Thank you for your time,

Joy Joling