

Submitter: Amy Kepler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5525

Hello, my name is Amy Kepler. I'm the parent of two children in Portland, my oldest is enrolled in PPS. I attended Outdoor School as a sixth grader, was a six-time student leader in high school, and now sit on the board of Friends of Outdoor School. I truly believe Outdoor School is one of the most special things about being educated in Oregon. It was critical in my education as it is for thousands of Oregon students every year.

Thank you and your colleagues for your past support for full funding of Outdoor School:

? Voters overwhelmingly passed Measure 99 in 2016, and since then, over 264,529 students have attended Outdoor School!

? The lottery funding dedicated by Measure 99 funds up to a week of Outdoor School for every 5th or 6th-grade student in Oregon.

? I urge you to continue fully funding Outdoor School so that every Oregon 5th or 6th-grade student may attend Outdoor School.

? I believe that this investment pays dividends both in the lives of students and in the health of Oregon and my community.

At a time when our schools are under so much pressure, Outdoor School unites our state in a way that no other state investment can. At Outdoor School, every student will have the experience of learning about our natural resources in the outdoors while building stronger relationships with their teachers and other students. Outdoor School has become an experience that is shared by students across Oregon—urban, rural, suburban. It has become a part of being an Oregonian.

Thank you,
Amy Kepler