

Submitter: Alicia Hays
On Behalf Of: CoRAA
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

I am writing to express my support for the Coalition of Recreation, Arts, and Athletics (CoRAA). CoRAA is a concept whose time has come. By uniting these projects, we can collectively achieve the completion of numerous initiatives across our county.

Several notable examples include the accessible boat ramp at Howard Buford Park, which will enable individuals with wheelchairs to access the river. The Willamette Activity Center renovation will provide support to the entire community of Oak Ridge. Additionally, the Regional Pickleball Complex at Lane Community College will provide a recreational infrastructure for countless hours of low-cost fitness, recreation, and community building.

Pickleball, in particular, has demonstrated significant health benefits. It reduces the risk of depression and anxiety, enhances memory, and combats isolation. Regular participation promotes social interaction, fosters inclusivity, and improves overall well-being. The community benefits from pickleball by encouraging physical and mental activity, as well as social cohesion.

As a former director of Lane County Health and Human Services and a former elected member of the 4J school board, I am fully cognizant of the paramount importance of a thriving community for its residents. CoRAA projects will provide accessible recreational opportunities that community members and visitors will be able to enjoy and benefit from.

I urge you to support CoRAA and all the projects that have come together to support each other in contributing to their communities through recreation, athletics, and the arts.