

Submitter: Melissa Livingston  
On Behalf Of: Support of Osborn Aquatic Center repair funding  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

To whom it may concern,

I am writing, again, to urge your support for funding repairs and improvements to the Osborn Aquatic Center in Corvallis. Osborn is a vital community resource—not just for our city, but for the entire state of Oregon. Its value reaches far beyond recreational swimming; it is a hub for public safety, youth development, adaptive access, and economic impact.

Osborn is one of only two indoor facilities in Oregon with a long course pool and the ability to host large-scale aquatic competitions. This makes it an essential venue for OSAA high school district and state championships in swimming and water polo across multiple divisions (5A/4A/3A), and for athletes of all ages and abilities—including adaptive athletes who rely on the center's accessibility features.

Its central location within the state allows Osborn to serve communities from all regions of Oregon. This accessibility is critical in a state where safe and supervised water spaces are increasingly necessary to teach water safety skills, especially with our proximity to rivers and the Pacific Ocean.

In Corvallis alone, Osborn hosts 700 swim lessons every week, helping hundreds of children become water-safe while providing therapeutic access to warm water for those recovering from injury or working to maintain mobility. The center also supports over 100 hourly wage jobs—many held by high school and college students—and generates over \$1.5 million annually in economic impact from events. It supports a broad range of programs including ROTC training, Girl and Boy Scout badge certifications, scuba diving classes, and even underwater hockey.

Since moving to Corvallis ten years ago I have enjoyed regular lap swimming at Osborn, both in the indoor and the outdoor pools. When my oldest son was born we were regular participants in the water babies program - he's now an avid water lover and remarkably strong level 4 swimmer at just 6 years old, thanks to lessons at Osborn. My middle son completed the water kids program at Osborn, and last summer began independent swim lessons - he loved it so much, and quickly advanced to level 2 as his comfort in the water grew. Last summer I was pregnant with my now 8 month old baby. All summer long I swam laps while my older two boys did their lessons. I was often joined by my parents during these biweekly lap swim times. The three of us treasured the opportunity to model swimming, a lifelong

commitment to regular exercise, and a sense of safe summer water play as we took the kids outside after swim lessons to play in the outdoor pools. These positive experiences with the water were made possible by the incredible Osborn Aquatic Center.

Osborn is more than a pool—it is a cornerstone of public health, youth engagement, and statewide aquatic infrastructure. Without adequate funding for repairs, we risk losing not just a facility, but the many opportunities it brings to Oregon residents. I respectfully urge you to prioritize funding for this essential community asset.

Thank you for your attention and for your continued service to our state.

Sincerely,

Melissa Livingston

3619 SE Coral Reef Place

Corvallis, OR. 97333