

Submitter: Marci Shindel
On Behalf Of: Osborn Aquatic Center and Corvallis Aquatic Team
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

Hello,

I wanted to write to you to ask you to PLEASE push as hard as possible to help us get funding for the repairs needed at the Osborn Aquatic Center. I am a CAT Masters swimmer there (normally), and I have had to stop swimming because I am unable to go to all the other pools at all the different times for the various practices Rick and the team have worked so hard to continue to provide. I appreciate them beyond all words, but really am hoping that we can (sooner than later) resume all practices at Osborn which is closer to my home and one consistent place with one consistent pay schedule. Not having access to regular/consistent practices has personally hurt my own health – both physically (I have been recovering from multiple surgeries and cognitive issues after a car accident and regular activity was helping that recovery process and stress/trauma management. Not having that I can say I have sunk a bit lower and struggle regularly to stay positive; and my body has gotten stiffer and weaker (though I go to physical therapy and have a gym membership, it is nowhere near as helpful as swimming).

Further, I have coached swimming for/with the Special Olympics crew at Osborn in the past. Watching those with various disabilities share my love of the water and help them reach their goals and bring so much light to their lives has been super fulfilling. Last year they lost that opportunity since the pool shut down. I see some of the athletes around town and have talked to them. Many were sad (but kept a more positive outlook than I was able to), some did not remember that the season got cut short – but remember it fondly to the point where they beamed with excitement when they talked about starting it this year.

Osborn provides a facility that allows competitions for a wide variety of water sports that can't be had in other pools in the area, and only a few in the state. Swimming provides one of the healthiest forms of exercise and fitness in a *protected* place where it otherwise rains 8-9 months out of the year and can be miserable for our other outdoor activities - especially what we have available here in the valley. That sheltered place for fitness at an affordable cost to those who can't afford \$170 monthly memberships to other gyms is a critical part of staying healthy AND rehabbing safely from various injuries or physical health challenges.

Osborn has been critical to me as a person who has unfortunately been through multiple accidents in recent years. Swimming at Osborn allowed me to take the

weight off my joints and keep my body moving, rather than sit around waiting for that one time a day where I can do gravity limited exercises - rather than being in a fluid environment where I can move my muscles and joints in all directions and eventually get back to swimming with my team and competing. I do train and compete with the Corvallis Aquatic Team Masters team. The coaches and other swimmers provide a healthy sense of community and support through all aspects of life and Osborn is our home where we all get together and push each other. Osborn is a facility that builds communities - helps residents meet, bond, stay healthy, collaborate, organize... we need MORE facilities like Osborn in all communities, not less. If you do not support helping with the repairs needed at Osborn - we will have less of what makes communities healthy and productive.

So with this letter, I would like to beg you to support this request for help funding repairs at Osborn Aquatic Center for the sake of the 60,000 people who live here and those who come from out of town to participate in healthy human activities and engagement too.

Thank you.

Marci Shindel