

Submitter: Tessa Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or SB5531
Topic:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing 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.

The Osborne Aquatic Center is one of the resources that drew our family to the area. Living in a rainy climate, the facility provides opportunity for year-round exercise and activity opportunities. My two children have learned to become proficient swimmers because of the accessible and affordable swim lessons program at the Osborne, and my older child has gone on to swim with the Corvallis Aquatic Team (CAT). CAT is an incredible community of coaches and swimmers. Living in a community surrounded by water, being strong and confident swimmers is not only healthy, but essential to our children's safety.

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,

Tessa Brown