

Submitter: Skip Rochefort

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or SB5531
Topic:

I would like to submit a personal story for what the Osborn Aquatic Center (OAC) has meant to the Corvallis Community and surrounding areas.

My story begins when my daughter was 3 years old and she began swim lessons at Osborn. As she progressed through the levels and eventually graduated to the "big pool" she saw lots of kids swimming on the 25 yard side of the 50 meter pool , it was split into two pools to allow for swimming lessons and the Corvallis Aquatic Team (CAT) and Masters Teams to practice at the same time. She was invited to participate in an all-commers swim meet at age 7. She was hooked and for next 11 years my family was a swim family, spending almost as many hours in Osborn as we spent in our home. Being part of CAT shaped my daughter's life. She had her first job, and first taste of responsibility, as an Osborn lifeguard. She met other swimmers from around the state and forged lifelong friendships. She travelled around the country with her swim friends. Each year she worked with children in the Oregon Special Olympics, which led to her professional career as a graduate from the OHSU/PSU Masters of Public Health program, specializing on working with children on the autism spectrum. In short, it shaped her life.

The amazing part of all this is that this is just one story, for one young person and their family. There are literally thousands of similar stories that could be told from families across the state. There are many economic reasons for helping to restore OAC, but it is the social significance that I feel is most important. On any given day at Osborn, a complete cross-section of the community (including the Boys and Girls Club co-located) using the facility.

Please consider passing this bill for so many reasons, but the most important reason I think is that OAC is the "melting plot" for the entire state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Skip Rochefort

Corvallis Resident and CAT Swim Parent