

Submitter: Marg Bartosek
On Behalf Of: Osborn Aquatic Center
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

One of the big reasons we moved to Corvallis over 12 years ago was Osborn Aquatic Center and its Masters Swimming Team through the Corvallis Aquatic Team. Regular aerobic exercise is important as we age and I know it is essential to my own physical and mental health. For the past few years, I have been excited to be able to use the small weight room there to boost my bone density. In addition, the close friendships I have developed there sustained me in countless ways, especially through Covid episodes and the health crises of my husband.

Losing the opportunity to swim at Osborn dramatically impacted my life. I was at such loose ends. What to do? Where to swim? How to maintain connections? How to build my bones? I went to lots of pools in the area and swam at times with various other Masters also searching. I was astonished at how unsettling, emotionally draining the whole experience was.

I am only 73 and pretty healthy, able to drive in the dark mornings and icy winter. How were the many other older people and those living with disabilities I used to see and talk with at the pool doing? These groups are very dependent on the pool. as are children and families.

Over the years, helping at swim meets, I have learned how much people around the state and region love coming here to compete in a high class facility. And I have seen the economic benefit of all these visitors on our local stores, hotels and restaurants.

Osborn receiving a significant vote of support from the state will provide an essential boost toward recovery of this valuable state resource. Thank you for considering this input and I hope you will support our efforts to bring Osborn back!