

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

Good Afternoon members of the ways and means committee, our names are Ryan Noss Corvallis School District Superintendent and Rick Guenther Coach of the Corvallis Aquatic Team. Today we are here requesting a lottery fund appropriation of \$4 million with \$1 million in reserve as a match for a fundraising effort to reopen Osborn Aquatic Center. This will allow work to begin immediately on the first part of the project while local officials raise private funds and seek local bonding capacity for the rest of the project.

Osborn Aquatic Center is one of the top three natatoriums on the west coast, and is a hub among the Oregon aquatics community. It regularly hosts athletes of all ages and calibers, from beginners to adaptive swimmers to Olympians, from across Oregon and throughout the West Coast. Each year, it hosts events such as Special Olympics, masters regionals, YMCA Regionals, district and state championships for high school and club water polo and swimming, and ROTC Trainings. These events serve more than 4500 athletes annually.

However, the facility is currently unusable due to a faulty roof design. This has led to the cancellation of numerous meets, swimming lessons, and other events, impacting 230,000 visitors from across the community and state. The building, owned by the Corvallis School District but operated under a cooperative agreement with the City of Corvallis, requires substantial repair and a new roof to safely welcome people inside. The cost is significant and beyond the immediate means of either the school district or the city.

We need your help to restore this vital, centrally located, Oregon resource. and ensure that swimmers from all corners of Oregon and beyond, can continue to benefit from its services. Thank you for considering this request.

Learn to walk, Learn to swim. In Oregon, we are blessed to be surrounded by rivers, lakes and the ocean. Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death in this country. Osborn being open, saves lives.