

Submitter: Sheila Scheve  
On Behalf Of: BAAC  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

I am writing to express deep concern over the ongoing closure of the Osborn Aquatic Center in Corvallis and to urge your support in prioritizing its repair and reopening. Osborn is one of only two indoor facilities in Oregon equipped with a 50-meter Olympic-sized pool, making it uniquely capable of hosting large-scale competitions, including state championships for swimming and water polo across multiple age groups and abilities. Its central location provides equitable access for athletes and families statewide.

The facility is also one of the few in Oregon that offers accessible aquatic programming for individuals with disabilities. Its warm-water therapy pool is essential for adaptive swim lessons, rehabilitation, and toddler water safety programs. Beyond its athletic significance, Osborn is a cornerstone of the Corvallis community. Before its closure in October 2024 due to roof support beam damage, it hosted approximately 700 swim lessons per week, employed over 100 hourly workers—many of them high school and college students—and generated an estimated \$1.5 million annually for the local economy through events and tourism.

In a state where rivers and the ocean are integral to our lifestyle, providing safe, monitored spaces for water safety education is critical. Osborn has long served this role, helping to prevent drownings and offering a safe place for residents to cool off and recreate during increasingly hot summers.

I understand that a comprehensive facility assessment is currently underway. However, the prolonged closure continues to impact public health, youth development, and our local economy. I respectfully request your advocacy in securing the necessary funding and support to expedite repairs and ensure Osborn Aquatic Center can once again serve our community and state.