

Submitter: Marie Oliver

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or SB5531  
Topic:

I'm writing in hearty support of this measure. I cannot emphasize enough how valuable our community pools are to me. After being an avid swimmer in my youth, I rediscovered it at the suggestion of my chiropractor at age 62. I had struggled with a severe autoimmune condition that complicated issues with my neck, spine, hips, and pelvis. It took many months to build my swimming muscles, but eventually I became strong enough to become a lap swimmer. I was a regular at Osburn during the covid shutdown and was ever so grateful for that experience; I'm happy to say that swimming outside in 28 degree weather probably saved me from contracting that virus!

Now, at 74, I'm strong enough to supplement my Social Security check by working part-time as a landscape gardener. Without that swimming practice, I would not have been able to perform such heavy labor.

I was living in Philomath when I first started my current job, so I was using the Philomath pool, but they kept cutting the hour available to community swimmers. I've since moved to Corvallis and had been using Osborne whenever possible when the issues with the roof became known. These many months without swimming have negatively affected my overall strength and sense of well-being. Since I work part-time, the limited hours available for lap swimming have prevented me from swimming. I greatly miss this opportunity.

Mine is just one taxpayer's story. Osborne Aquatic Center provides invaluable services to our community in so many different ways, and I know others will speak to that. I'm asking on behalf of seniors who want to remain active, healthy, and useful to our local communities.