

Submitter: Jessica Sanchez

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

Jessica Sanchez

May 10, 2025

Oregon State Legislators

Capital Construction Committee

900 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Committee,

I'm writing today to urge your support for funding critical repairs and long-term investment in the Osborn Aquatic Center in Corvallis. This facility is not only a cornerstone of our local community, but also a unique statewide asset—one of only two indoor facilities in Oregon with a long-course pool that can host major aquatic competitions year-round.

As a resident of Corvallis, I've seen firsthand how essential Osborn is to our community. It hosts over 700 swim lessons per week, helping hundreds of children, adults, and seniors develop water safety and swimming skills—something especially important in a state like Oregon where rivers and the ocean are so much a part of our lives. Osborn offers a warm-water pool that serves everyone from toddlers to our neurodiverse neighbors and senior community members needing aquatic therapy. It's more than just a pool—it's a lifeline for many.

On a personal note, my son has been a dedicated member of the Corvallis Aquatic Team (CAT) for over three years. In that time, Osborn has become his second home. It's where he found his passion for swimming, built meaningful friendships with teammates, and developed a deep bond with his coaches. Swimming at Osborn has shaped his confidence, discipline, and drive. He dreams of swimming in college someday, and that dream is fueled by the time he spends in this pool. Without needed repairs and a safe, functioning facility, that dream—and the dreams of countless other kids like him—could slip away. For so many youth in our community, Osborn isn't just a pool. It's a source of purpose, belonging, and inspiration.

Osborn is also a major economic contributor. Events hosted here bring in over \$1.5 million annually to the local economy, and the center provides jobs for more than 100 hourly employees, many of whom are high school and college students. Beyond recreation, the facility supports organizations like ROTC, the Boy and Girl Scouts, and scuba diving and water safety training programs. It's also an inclusive space that supports adaptive swimming and therapy, one of the few of its kind in Oregon.

On a broader level, Osborn is one of only two indoor facilities in the state capable of hosting high school championships and major aquatic competitions, drawing athletes

aged 5 to 100 from across the state. It has proudly hosted OSAA water polo and swim championships for multiple districts and classifications. Its central location makes it an ideal hub for these statewide events, ensuring access for rural and urban communities alike.

Oregon must prioritize safe, accessible, and inclusive aquatic spaces—not just for competition, but for life-saving water safety education and community health.

Supporting repairs and upgrades at Osborn isn't just about preserving a building—it's about investing in public safety, youth development, health, and economic vitality.

I respectfully ask that you support funding for Osborn Aquatic Center. It's not just a Corvallis facility—it's an Oregon treasure.

Sincerely,

Jessica Sanchez