

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

As a member of the Corvallis Aquatic Team, I am addressing the problem of the repairs and restoration needed on the facility. Osborn Aquatic Center in Corvallis, has been closed since early October of 2024, and began to have issues in late September of the same year. This facility means more than just somewhere we go to swim everyday. It houses many activities region-wide. Here are a few to mention: OSI 11-14 short course championships, swimming lessons, OSAA 5A/4A/3A waterpolo, and countless swim practices and meets for both highschool swim and competitive club swimming, and even State-wide select camps for Oregon Swimming.

I am advocating for funding Osborn Aquatic Center with the \$5 million in state funding that Senator Sara Gelser has requested in support of the facility repairs that are needed.

My coach Rick Gunether attends practice 6 days weekly morning and night to coach the members of our team. We complete approximately 8 practices weekly Monday-Saturday. All of our coaching staff have been there for the many locations that we have had to drive to to get a practice in due to Osborn's closure: Dallas Aquatic Center, Timberhill Athletic Club, Sweet Home Community Pool, OSU's Langton Hall and Dixon Recreation Center, Albany Community Pool, Newport Aquatic Center, and Philomath High School.

Having to pay for all of the water time, and losing our fundraising meets at Osborn has created a significant financial challenge for our team. Losing Championship meets for both highschool and Oregon Swimming have had the most significant impact.

Me and my sister live in Salem, Oregon and drive down to Corvallis each day to go to train. We have been doing this since 2018, when I was just seven years old. This team is amazing and has prepared me for so many high-level meets like Summer Junior National Championships in Irvine, California, Open water National Championships in Sarasota, Florida, and in June, I'll swim at the USA Swimming Toyota National Championships (Indianapolis, IN) in which I can qualify to represent Team USA at the World Championships. The training, support, friends, motivation, and confidence that this team has given me is unmatched. We have persevered our way through this problem, and we miss our pool. We miss walking in each day and being able to dive off of our starting blocks during sprint sets, and using our weight

room to get stronger. I know that people region-wide love our pool, and want it back too. So many fast times, memories, smiles, and laughter fills Osborn and seeing the pool filled with steel scaffolding instead of us training, or little kids learning how to swim breaks our hearts.

My team, the local community, numerous local businesses, and swim clubs from around the state, and more, call on you to advance the funding to repair Osborn Aquatic Center.