

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

Dear Committee members,

I am writing to express my support in the continued funding for the Osborn Aquatic Center. I reside in Beaverton and my daughter and son swim competitively with Hillsboro Swim Team in Hillsboro. We have many wonderful memories competing at the Osborn pool alongside Corvallis Aquatic Team and countless other teams throughout Oregon.

This past year has been incredibly difficult with the Osborn Aquatic Center being closed. Our kids have missed on racing/competition opportunities, teams are finding an influx of entries to other meets creating a lottery system with entire teams having to be excluded from meets. Oregon swim teams are also having to commute longer distances to swim meets when they are from the Corvallis/ Eugene area but now must compete in Beaverton, Portland and Hillsboro. This creates a financial burden for all families involved. Competitive swimmers typically train 5-6 days a week year round and sacrifice much of their free time to their sport. The reward for their hard work is when they are able to compete and showcase their hard work. It is what motivates our swimmers to continue to show up to practice day in and day out, weekends and early mornings. Oregon State, compared to other states has much fewer pools to hold competitive events and that affects the quality of swimmers that Oregon produces. Oregon once upon a time was known for amazing swim programs and coaching that produced national level swimmers. We have fallen off that list and are currently struggling to get our State's teams to compete at all. Not only does the closure of the Osborn Aquatic Center impact the local community at large but it has had a significant impact on all swim teams throughout Oregon State and the swim program at large. I would like for the committee to not only consider the Corvallis community but also consider Oregon Swim teams Statewide.

Kindly, Barbara Shailos