

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

I am writing this letter in support of fully funding the request for four million dollars with a one million dollar private match to facilitate urgent repairs for the Osborn Aquatic Center under SB 5531. As a Corvallis resident and life long swimmer I passionately believe the revitalization of the Osborn Aquatic Center is not just important to the Corvallis community but to families across the state of Oregon.

I grew up on the Oregon coast swimming for Lincoln City and some of my earliest memories of swim meets were coming to Corvallis and what an amazing facility it was. Over the next 10 years I kept swimming and getting faster. I moved to Bend and competed in national meets all the way up to the Olympic Trials. I have swam in pools all across the nation. However, I always looked forward to swim meets in Corvallis. It is one of only two indoor Olympic size pools in Oregon that can hold championship meets (where there are a significant number of spectators) and it always felt like coming home to get to compete in such a great facility in our own state.

Prior to being condemned, the Osborn Aquatic Center hosted a variety of swimming and waterpolo competitions throughout the year. People from across the state looked forward to traveling to our facility to compete in events such as the Special Olympics, Oregon Masters Meets, water polo championships, 11-14 swimming Championships, Senior Championships, High School Districts, and we always had teams from out of state come to attend the Senior Open swim meet each year. The Olympic size indoor pool is an asset to athletes across our state.

This facility is central to the Corvallis community serving a variety of roles. Adults use the facility not just for swimming but also the community rooms where they hold first aid classes and other sports classes. The facility has served as a warming shelter and offers scholarships for community members in need to come take showers. But the group who have been most profoundly impacted by the closure are the children. It's not just a place where they can play (recreational swim is very popular), or stay physically fit working out (swimming is a lifelong sport that teaches qualities that transfer way beyond the pool). It's a place where kids learn to swim and be safe in the water. Osborn taught seven hundred kids swim lessons every week, preventing who knows how many drownings. Now with most staff furloughed, and very limited water space available for swim lessons in the community this need is not being met and very few of these children will be water safe.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to support funding repairs for this unique facility so that athletes across Oregon, and the kids in our community can once again have access to an indoor Olympic size pool and all the benefits that come from the reopening of the Osborn Aquatic Center.

Genuinely hoping for your support,

Capi Marceau