

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

Growing up, I participated in swim lessons and always loved going to the pool with my friends. My love for the water eventually led to me joining swim team in high school and going on to join the Willamette University swim team. Now, swimming is essential for my mental health and I needed to train to maintain my fitness over breaks when I was at home in Corvallis. Throughout the closure of Osborn I struggled to find a place to train. Other pools in the area had limited access and space, and other frequent pool users all had the same needs as me. However, Osborn is not just important for lap swimmers, as it hosts multiple swim teams, Special Olympics, open recreation, exercise classes, and swim lessons. I was a coach for the Salem Special Olympics swim team this past year, and when Osborn closed we struggled to find an alternate pool for our swim meet, as some events were traditionally held in the small pool. Osborn also hosts many events such as long course swim meets, water polo tournaments, and other community events. Osborn is an essential part of Corvallis and the surrounding communities, and the state of Oregon would greatly benefit from its re-opening.