

Submitter: Devin Rose

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4112

To whom it may concern,

My name is Devin Rose and I'm an employee of the Multnomah Education Service District's Outdoor School program. I'm writing this testimony in support of the proposal to increase the lottery allocation made towards Oregon's outdoor school programs. I have experienced firsthand how the recent 20 million dollar cut to outdoor school funding has impacted our ability to serve students. Due to the cut in funding my program has had to shift to operating over 4 days rather than our standard 6 days which has imposed numerous constraints on the quality of experience we strive to provide. As well, the cuts have caused a mass layoff in our staffing. 10 of my coworkers were laid off due to the budget constraints and 10 additional staff have been unable to return to their roles because of financial constraints imposed by a cut in pay. This means we've lost roughly 20 passionate individuals who were working to continually improve the quality of the experience we provide to 6th graders across the greater Portland Metro Area. The budget cut has also forced us to downsize to utilizing 4 sites instead of 5 this spring which means higher volumes of students and less staff to serve them. Supporting the increase of funding towards Outdoor School will help ensure that this longstanding Oregon tradition will continue to be able to exist and effectively provide a positive and life changing experience for all 6th graders across the state of Oregon.

Thank you for your time,
Devin Rose