

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4112

I work for NWRESA as a program facilitator for outdoor school. I grew up in Oregon, and when I was in 6th grade I did not get to go to outdoor school, I did not even know it existed until 2024. Now every day I work with high school volunteers and 6th graders and I get a little sad because I am reminded of the opportunity that I never had. I feel grateful that I get to experience it now through the form of a job, and that I was sent to summer camp as a kid. However, I know that if I was aware that outdoor school existed I would have signed up to be a student leader and I would have done it many times.

This experience is ineffective when the weeks are cut short (an idea being proposed to afford our sites), or the resources we have go away. It is hard enough developing a trusting relationship with a 12 year old in 4 days, but anything less is impossible and just harmful for the kids that need it the most. And maybe there are families out there that can afford to send their kid to outdoor school if it costs money for families, but then all the work we have done to make the diverse attendance to outdoor school equal across ethnicity, language, and financial status will be gone.