

Submitter: Brian King
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4112

Good evening,

In full transparency, I am currently an employee of NW Regional Outdoor School in the role of a Nurse Coordinator. For many years in this organization I have worked as a full time nurse on-site and now in my current role I support all nursing and medical services across our sites.

It is undeniable the impact I have seen Outdoor School have on the lives of countless sixth graders, high schools, teachers, and my fellow co-workers. This program, and Outdoor School in general, undeniably adds value to one's life and the importance of nature and recreation in nature has been shown time and time again to improve the health and well being of individuals. I simply do not have the time to share all the stories I have gathered and witnessed in my Outdoor School experience and the positive impact it has had on people's lives and I'm sure you, my representatives, need no reminder of. So I suppose I'm curious and undeniably saddened about the cuts to our funding. I'm saddened by the renegeing of your promise to uphold Ballot Measure 99. I'm saddened by your proposed additional cuts to our already cut budget. I'm saddened by your failure to honor the wishes of voters, your constituents.

I honestly do not know what more I can say to encourage your vote to support this measure and restore a portion of our Outdoor School funding. Outdoor School is such a unique gift and opportunity that the State of Oregon offers that I myself did not have growing up in Washington, DC. I wish you are able to see Outdoor School from our perspective. From the perspective of those who grew up not having the opportunity to attend. From the perspective of a sixth grader attending for the first time, in nature for the first time, away from home for the first time. I wish you could see Outdoor School from my perspective as a nurse. From a caregiver who sees the health impact of being out in nature, being disconnected from phones and technology, and being engaged in community.

I do not wish to take up a lot of your time because I'm sure you have a lot on your plate and are reading a lot of letters. I hope this message gets read and in short, please support this bill. Please support Outdoor School. Please support children.

Thank you.