



VOICES UNITED.
OPPORTUNITY REIMAGINED.

May 4, 2021

House Committee on General Government
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 299

Chair Wilde, Vice-chair Leif, Vice-chair Lively, and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First for Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities. We continue to connect a community of 115 advocates, coalitions, and organizations through The Children's Agenda, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

SB 299: Allowing Children Services Districts is part of the 2021 Children's Agenda. In every part of the state, we see the lack of child care and afterschool options reducing opportunities and positive outcomes for children. We see SB 299 as an opportunity to provide another tool in the toolbox about how we in Oregon can better support children.

Special districts can currently address water distribution, fire protection, cemetery maintenance and many others, and it only makes sense to include an option for voters to meet the needs of children in their area.

This bill gives voters of the option to support needed services for children. By creating this possibility, you can provide a chance for communities to have a conversation about the needs of children, and Oregonians can learn about the needs of children in their area and about the programs that could improve their lives.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement Director
Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

View the 2021 Children's Agenda at www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda

The Children's Agenda

is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.



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