



Washington State Legislature

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor and Staff,

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington state recently reached out to your office requesting emergency financial assistance to keep their childcare centers open. **I want to add my voice of support to their request.**

The Boys & Girls Clubs are stepping up at a vital time in our state's history when schools and places of work have closed.

The Whatcom County Boys & Girls Clubs committed to operating four licensed care centers at the beginning of this month that were slated to close. They have gone above and beyond the call in my district to fill this critical gap.

Many of our frontline workers, including those in health care, grocers, and law enforcement have children that typically go to school and have very few childcare options during these times. Supporting those community members who are on the front lines includes supporting those who are showing up every day to care for their children. If the Boys & Girls Clubs don't receive funding soon they will have to close their doors like so many other childcare centers in Whatcom County.

The Boys & Girls Club's staff are highly trained. In addition to childcare, the clubs are providing food and educational opportunities too. They are helping us, now we should help them so they can continue to provide childcare to our frontline workers.

As you know, the Legislature is adjourned and we have no way to allocate funds to this critical organization. Executive authority is required to provide this organization with immediate financial assistance to continue their operations. Once again, they are imperative to allow frontline workers to continue their role in healing our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luanne".

Luanne Van Werven
State Representative, 42nd District