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**Kaitlyn Wendland**  
**Statement Letter**

12 May 2023

Dear Shasta Union High School Board Members,

My name is Kaitlyn Wendland and I am a Sophomore at Shasta High School. I am currently 15 years old and my passion is to achieve my goals of helping youth be represented, heard and understood. I have been involved in student council, Odyssey of the Mind, many different sports teams, the Youth Action Council for the city of Redding, Youth Peer Court through Youth Options Shasta, and was recently selected as the Secretary for the California Association of Student Councils for Region One for the following school year. Currently, I wish to stand as a bridge between youth in the Shasta Union High School District and School Board members because, I have a deep passion for communicating other students' needs, wants, and desires for changes within the Shasta Union High School District.

Throughout my surplus experiences with leadership positions, communication skills, conferences, meetings, and more I feel that I would bring to the table not only a different perspective, but valuable skills needed for the position as well. With my experience with Youth Action Council, Youth Peer Court, student council, and more I have gained leadership experience and valuable communication skills. Within my different perspectives, I've seen how troubled and excellent children have faced hardship which is why I can offer different perspectives to the School Board. I have known others who have been impacted by family situations severely and impacted by friends at school which gives me the experience I need, as I have helped and tried to guide students through troubled times they have faced. I feel that through not only surplus leadership, communication skills, and different perspectives from students in the Shasta Union High School District, I would bring what is needed and valued to the position of a Student Board Member for our school district.

As mentioned earlier, Youth Action Council is an extracurricular that I'm proud to be a part of due to the guidance, service, and leadership we give to the Youth of Redding. Youth Action Council is a team of cooperative, positive, amazing teenagers who strive and want to help the community of Shasta County. We have done many different projects addressing subjects ranging from drug and alcohol abuse education to the local voting process. To promote and advertise the program, Youth Options Shasta had organized for members to speak at a city council meeting in which we gave our experience and gratitude to be a part of such a wonderful opportunity. I have been a part of the Youth Action Council since July 2022, almost a year, and since then have been involved constantly in projects, jobs, opportunities, and more. I have gained valuable and knowledgeable communication and leadership skills throughout my involvement in the Youth Action Council which, in turn, I feel makes me a valuable candidate for the position of a Student Board Member for our school district.

Though voiced earlier of my experience with Youth Peer Court, to specify it is another extracurricular activity that I am a part of due to the knowledge I gain of not only the legal and judicial system but communication and listening skills with others. Youth Peer Court is a youth-centered program that offers restorative justice to first-time juvenile offenders who regret their choices and wish to achieve

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better in life. First, a case conference is called where Peer Court members review cases, questions to ask the respondent, and possible dispositions to be given. The respondent meets, before the court, with a peer advocate who discusses what dispositions are available and related to the case. The respondent who made a questionable choice then goes to court in front of a jury of other youth and answers questions from the juror. During the court meeting, the appropriate dispositions are decided for the respondent. Youth Peer Court is a wonderful opportunity that I gained volumes of knowledge and skills from. I have been a part of Youth Peer Court since August of 2022, and since then have seen many different cases, and kids come through the program and have had many different experiences. One of the more memorable experiences I have had through Peer Court was when I gained the opportunity to speak in front of Redding Rotary Club about Peer Court and the countless guidance and service we have given to the youth of Shasta County.

While I have had many opportunities to flourish in different environments like Youth Peer Court and Youth Action Council however I have gained more experience as well through more extracurriculars and personal experience. Some other extracurricular activities that I've been involved in were being on a Tennis team, being a cheerleader for two seasons, being involved in JV Softball for two seasons, being involved in Odyssey of the Mind, two plays put on by Grant Elementary school, being involved in student council for two years achieving a Secretary and Vice President position, being a Nation Honors Society member, public speaking at Poetry OutLoud, music club, volunteering with stage crew for helping the play Fiddler on the Roof last year, and in all semesters in highschool achieving some type of honor roll all while balancing advanced placement and honors classes in high school. Through these activities I have gained valuable time management and listening skills, the foundation of my communication skills was built, and my leadership skills were built. These were just a few more extracurriculars I have been involved in, which I believe highlight my determination, commitment, and involvement within my schools and community.

If I am graciously granted the opportunity to be involved and gain the position of a Student Board member, I believe I would gain knowledge of how the education administration works, gain insights into the school board perspective, and most importantly be able to make change within the Shasta Union High School District's students. I believe I would gain not only knowledge but experience with being able to communicate better with adults. With this opportunity, I feel I would gain the experience of being able to understand and communicate the needs of the student body with the Shasta Union High School board and make a difference.

**Sincerely,**

**Kaitlyn Wendland**

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May 11, 2023

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the staff and board members of Youth Options Shasta, we write this letter in recommendation of Kaitlyn Wendland.

Kaitlyn's been a valuable asset to both the Shasta Youth Peer Court and Redding Youth Action Council. She's served several roles in our Peer Court program, as a member of the jury, jury foreperson, and dedicated Peer Advocate. She's consistently gone above and beyond as a Peer Court volunteer, and recently blossomed into an impressive member of the Youth Action Council. Her most notable contributions include speaking before the City Council and being a primary consultant to the Election Video Project.

Kaitlyn's consistently proven herself hard-working and reliable through her work with us. Her contribution is felt in everything she's a part of. She eagerly volunteers for every opportunity she can and can be trusted to follow through and exceed expectations every time. We're grateful to have worked with her so far and are honored to write this letter. It is with great confidence that we recommend Kaitlyn Wendland for any endeavor she may pursue.

Please don't hesitate to reach out for further information on her accomplishments and experience in our programs.

Sincerely,

Skyler Robinson  
Peer Court Manager

[skyler@yoshasta.org](mailto:skyler@yoshasta.org)

**Mission:**

*To promote a safe and healthy community by providing positive options for youth*