

CTSO Rejuvenation Act Testimony by Jaden Bales

My name is Jaden Bales, a senior from Imbler High School. I am here on behalf of Oregon Future Business Leaders of America and the Career and Technical Student Organization Rejuvenation Act, HB 2985

As the Oregon FBLA State President, I am proud to call myself a product of the opportunities that Future Business Leaders of America has afforded me in my five years as an active member. Throughout my FBLA membership, I have helped pioneer new operations in our local chapter, as well as developing professional and leadership skills in myself. My state officer experience has shown that proper planning and innovation are driving factors to any successful organization. My FBLA experience has molded my future aspirations as I will be attending the University of Oregon and obtaining a Masters in Business Administration before pursuing a career in international business consulting.

I am a firm believer that I am one of thousands of students whose ambitions and career paths have been influenced by Career and Technical Education. In contrast, there are still thousands of Oregon students who are chomping at the bit to discover their passions, but they don't have the resources or opportunities to do so.

It's the efforts from our volunteer advisers that have given students, like me those opportunities to excel. I know my local adviser spends many late nights and time away from her family to ensure our local chapter has the ability to compete at all levels of FBLA. She isn't paid the big bucks to do so, but she is passionate about the benefits of FBLA. Oftentimes schools are unable to afford an adviser, they are unable to allocate travel funds, or they are unable to make an initial investment in a chapter, which has kept CTSOs from reaching their full potential as an asset to our students.

HB 2985 doesn't just provide Career and Technical Education with much needed funds, but the trickledown effect of this CTSO Rejuvenation Act is an investment in the future of our state. Stand with me on this bill, and the future of business, agriculture, healthcare, and every occupation in between will reap the benefits of HB 2985. |