



**Representative Jeff Reardon**  
House District 48 (East Portland & Happy Valley)  
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H-491

## HB 2985

*Establishes Career and Technical Student Organization Grant Program for purpose of funding expenses associated with participation in career and technical student organizations.*

### Background

Career and technical student organizations, or CTSOs, are teacher-led groups that work with industry partners to offer rigorous coursework. Oregon students participate in the following eight CTSOs:

- SkillsUSA
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
- DECA
- HOSA – Future Health Professionals
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
- Future Educators Association (FEA)
- Technology Student Association (TSA)
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)

CTSOs offer networking events and exciting opportunities for students. Robust CTSO programs allow students to participate in state, regional, and national competitions, as well as taking part in on-campus interviews with local trades and companies. These activities help students develop the strong “soft skills” employers desire, keep students excited about their education, and emphasize STEM and Common Core principles through applied academics. As such, engagement in CTSOs leads to higher graduation rates and prepares students for desirable, living-wage jobs.

### Issues

Currently, teachers that lead CTSO programs do so without additional compensation and with little administrative coordination across school districts. Overworked teachers with few dollars at their disposal are often unable to provide students with access to competitions, interviews, and other activities that lead to vibrant programs.

### Solution

By allowing CTSO advisors to apply for grants, they will feel more appreciated and be empowered to grow their organizations or start new chapters. Instructors would also be able to use grant funds to engage in professional development so each CTSO can truly prosper. Furthermore, funds may be allocated for the Technical Education Student Leadership Foundation to hire staff that will administer the CTSO organizations and generally foster coordination between schools and districts.

Despite the astounding benefits that CTSOs provide to students, the grant program is extremely cost-effective. Administrative support for a full biennium comes at a modest cost of \$250,000, while the grants themselves require \$2.58 million per biennium. This amount would support meaningful grants to as many as 258 organizations. The total cost, including the additional administrative cost contained in the fiscal impact statement, would be just shy of \$3 million per biennium. <over>

Cost Summary

ITEM	COST	# YEARS	TOTAL
258 CTSOs	\$5,000 per grant	2 yrs	\$2.58 M
Foundation Staffing	\$125,000 per year	2 yrs	\$250K
		TOTAL:	\$2.83M
Dept. of Ed Admin.	To be determined		