

March 1st, 2017

To the Senate Committee on Education,

I am contacting you in regards to SB230, concerning funding for the Oregon FFA. I am a high school senior at Oakland High School, and I have been a member of my high school's FFA Chapter for the last four years.

Being a member of this organization has developed me as a person and a student more than any other thing in high school has. I have learned everything from how to be a commanding public speaker to how to run a business meeting to the basics of forestry. Additionally, being in this organization has taken me around the state to different competitions and conventions, seeing the diversity of our states agriculture, and around our country as well, including to our nation's capitol. I feel as if we have covered it all in my agriculture classes and I have taken a huge interest in these classes, more so than any others offered at my school. So much so that I have decided to further my education in the area of agriculture sciences after I graduate next year.

Being enrolled in agriculture classes and being involved in FFA has had the same impact that I have described on thousands of students over the years. This program helps students carry through in high school year after year, and give us practical options for life after high school. It is because of this positive effect that the organization has had on students around the state that I ask you to consider this bill for stable funding for vocational education through FFA.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Patt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Emily Patt