



Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

May 31, 2019

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Head Start Association, a state-wide organization supporting Head Start, Early Head Start, and Oregon Prekindergarten Head Start (OPK) programs, to express our strong support for HB 2579, Oregon's Farm to School Bill. Please support HB 2579 and the -4 Amendments, to expand funding for Oregon's farm to school and school garden programs. HB 2579 expands funding for schools to buy Oregon foods and for farm- and garden-based education.

Farm to School is a win, win, win! supporting kids, farms and communities!

HB 2579 will allow our members to influence the eating habits of young children while their preferences are forming; create healthy lifestyles through good nutrition and experiential opportunities such as gardening; improve healthy food access at home and within the community; and ultimately influence policies to address the childhood obesity epidemic through a local food lens.

Please do all you can to advance and fully fund HB 2579!

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tristin Blalack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Tristin Blalack
Executive Director
Oregon Head Start Association