

I am writing in gratitude to HB2444's impacts on our FFA programming at Central High School in Independence, OR where I serve as an agriculture science and technology teacher and FFA advisor. The value of HB2444 has impressed me in how effectively, quickly, and impactfully it raised the bar on Oregon FFA programming and curriculum offerings in the leadership arena. HB2444 allowed for the hiring of essential Oregon FFA personnel who have developed outstanding leadership curriculum resources for teacher and student use - the FFA officer training experience has improved dramatically, even in the COVID-19 shutdown era, and made a more meaningful impact to these positions and in turn, the students who hold them. My leadership team students have made many comments about the quality and impact the virtual leadership trainings, State FFA convention workshops, and interactions in CDEs and LDE events have made on them. The learning happening in and outside of our virtual classrooms this year has continued and has impressed me time and time again, thanks to benefits from new FFA resources and opportunities. HB2444 was a saving grace in helping FFA not only continue, but thrive in supporting students and student growth during COVID shut downs. Many students turned to FFA because our programs continued to run: we held contests, meetings, community service projects, trainings, and so much more. In our own FFA program, we are seeing an increase in participation in all leadership contests and opportunities, as well as more students getting involved in long term livestock projects. I am immensely grateful and impressed with the investment we are able to make in our young people. Thank you for your continued support of Oregon FFA and agriculture education in the state of Oregon.