

Hello,

I am an Agricultural Sciences Teacher writing to express my gratitude for your support of HB 2444 in 2019 and wanted to share some of my personal experiences as to how it has reduced barriers for students and provided additional learning opportunities, even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The funding for HB 2444 has allowed the continuation of FFA as a student leadership organization during the pandemic. When other programs were forced to shut down, my students were able to continue participating in extracurricular learning through virtual engagement. Last spring, my students had the opportunity to compete in virtual career development events, demonstrating subject knowledge and career readiness. Since then, I have had numerous students participate in virtual leadership conferences, camps, conferences, career development events and industry networking events to strengthen their emotional and employability skills.

Many of my students have told me that these opportunities have been the highlight of their year during distance learning.

Additionally, the funding to Oregon FFA has made such a huge impact on students. Because of HB2444, students are able to access resources that have not been available to them until now. Many of these resources are geared towards developing leadership skills, which are beneficial to any young professional.

I am hopeful that FFA funding will continue into the next biennium, as I am optimistic about the opportunity to build on what has already been created and look forward to continuing to reach additional students, especially those who are historically underserved, through career development opportunities and leadership programming.

Thank you again for your continued support of Oregon FFA.

Sincerely,

Christina Griffin