

House Bill 2444 Testimony: Alina Walker (Bend FFA)

Hello, my name is Alina Walker and I am an Oregon FFA member and an Officer on the Bend FFA Chapter Officer team. I am a sophomore in High School and I have been involved in FFA for three years now. This program has changed my life in so many ways. I developed so many skills through FFA like public speaking, leadership, teamwork, time management and more. I have also learned so much about my abilities as a student, leader, daughter, friend and peer, gained confidence in myself and I have created and reached so many more goals than I ever could have without the support of this organization. While we were thrown for a loop this year, it created so much unique opportunity within our chapter and organization. I have competed, led, and learned through a screen this year and I will come out of it with new knowledge and a new perspective on life.

From the perspective of an officer leading one of many FFA Chapters in Oregon, getting new members, and even past ones we know love our organization has been difficult. Being able to reach out to all students in AG classes has kept many members involved simply because all they have to do is show up. This has also brought in so many new members this year, I believe it is because the fear of a large commitment such as paying for membership does not scare away members who don't know much about FFA. As someone who can thank FFA for so many opportunities and has seen how it changes lives, I believe all students should be able to experience and learn what I have and more. A student's ability to learn, grow, better themselves, and have opportunity should not be determined by income, race, gender, location or anything they cannot control. I cannot wait to see where this takes me and FFA members across the state! Thank you for your time.