

Two years ago, as a freshman, I had the opportunity to give an in-person testimony in favor of the bill to allocate state money to help support The Oregon FFA Association! Fast forward to now, as a senior who has seen firsthand how that support has impacted members, I was asked to speak again. Across all fifty states, The National FFA Organization is the largest student-led organization in the US. Members, whether they know it or not, will leave the program being changed forever. And parents, whether they know it or not, will see their child graduate as a more intelligent, well-rounded, respectful, and prepared person.

The funding in this bill is vital to helping to continue providing experiences and opportunities to members to get them to where they can be at their fullest potential. Over the past two years, funding has gone to help chapters waive the enrollment fees, which breaks down financial barriers, provide opportunities for trips, Career Development Events (competitions), conferences, conventions, and so much more. Especially this past year, as we have pivoted to virtual engagement in a lot of areas, the funding has been needed and appreciated. Many children will never get the opportunity to participate and grow within such an amazing program. I want to thank you for your support in the past, and I hope to see it in the future after hearing about how truly remarkable FFA is.