

Submitter: Kimberly Pidcoke

On Behalf Of: Multnomah County Department of Community Justice

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5014

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

3/15/2023

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McLain and members of the Committee

I am writing on behalf of Multnomah County's Juvenile Services Division in support of the Farm to School Grant Program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget. This Grant program provides critical funding for schools and early childhood education programs to purchase Oregon foods, hands-on farm and garden education programs, equipment and infrastructure for food producers and technical assistance for the farm to school community. Sustaining the current level of \$10.2 million dollars will support dependable business relationships between schools and food producers and maintain consistent educational programs that connect students to agriculture and nutrition

The youth here in detention have been able to have access to meat, cheese and produce that the budget for school meals could not afford to include. They have gotten fresh Oregon cherries in the Spring and beautiful Oregon eggs from Oregon farms. For many youth in the criminal justice system this is their first taste of some of these items.

I whole heartedly support this grant program because it builds skills for wellness and health in kids and communities, It also helps to build a strong local food system and supports our local economy.

I ask that you support including this grant program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget at the current level of \$10.2 million so this program can continue to support healthy kids, schools and communities. Thank you for your time.

Kimberly Pidcoke

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