

Submitter: Nadia Kelem

On Behalf Of:

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

March 15, 2023

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

I am writing in support of the Farm to School Grant Program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget. This Grant program provides crucial 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

As a previous farm-to-school educator and previous AmeriCorps FoodCorps service member I support this grant program because it builds a strong local food system and supports our state and local economy, while growing the capacity for schools to become hubs for communities—especially during times of crisis such as wildfires and pandemic. Feeding Oregon's children, supporting Oregon's farmers, and increasing school's capacities for farm to school education are crucial components of this work and invaluable services to the communities of this state.

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.

Nadia Kelem  
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