

Submitter: Reeba Daniel

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

3/17/2023

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

I am writing on behalf of Keep Growing Seeds 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

I am a farmer and school garden educator in Portland Beaverton and Hillsboro schools.

As an educator, producer, parent, support organization, and community member the funding I have received to implement KGS programming is essential. It has allowed me to expand our schools engagement, provide farm to table experiences, cultural identity support, teach entrepreneurship and support programming to purchase vital supplies, hire staff and engage in community outreach.

We support this grant program because:

It builds skills for wellness and health in kids and communities

It builds a strong local food system and supports our local economy

Supports schools as hubs for communities especially during times of crisis such as wildfires and pandemic

Increases accessibility for minority and marginalized stakeholders to engage in supporting their schools by providing education and access to high quality locally

grown food. It also increases sustainability and keeps dollars in communities. It reduces food waste and teaches life skills and supports self-care.

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.