

Submitter: Jennifer Andersen

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 17, 2023

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

I am writing on behalf of Central Point Elementary 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 support this grant program because as a 4th-grade teacher at a low-income elementary school, I've seen the tremendous effect it has on children. At our school alone, this program has taught more than 700 students how to grow their own food, and how to make healthy choices in their daily lives. Our goal as a community is to create healthy individuals and a healthy environment and the Farm to School Program is doing this great work.

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.

Jennifer Andersen  
Central Point Elementary  
Central Point, OR