

Submitter: Bobbi Wilson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5014

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

I am writing to urge your support for full funding of the Farm to School Grant Program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget. This Grant program provides critical funding for farm and garden education programs, which is critical for healthy childhood development. 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 beginning farmer, an aunt, and an education coordinator with Umpqua Valley Farm to School, this grant program touches my life both personally and professionally. It supports institutional buying of local food which contributes to healthy school lunches and provides a market for farmers to sell our products. It provides more opportunities for kids like my nieces and nephews to access nutrition and garden-based curriculum, which is currently lacking in our rural schools. And it funds the work I do to educate kids about good food, healthy living, and sustainable farming.

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.

With gratitude,

Bobbi Wilson