

Submitter: Zoe DeSurra

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

3/22/23

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

I am writing on behalf of Valley Flora 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

We have been involved in Farm to School efforts in our community for over a decade, hosting farm tours and on-farm education opportunities for grades K-12 from Gold Beach, Port Orford/Langlois, Bandon and Coos Bay school districts. We are one of the few diversified produce farms in our area that can provide this kind of hands-on, experiential learning to local school kids, and it wouldn't be possible without robust Farm to School funding through Oregon's Farm to School Grant program.

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.

Zoe DeSurra  
Valley Flora Farm  
Langlois, OR