

Submitter: Elizabeth Lattig

On Behalf Of: Faubion Elementary Garden Program

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 22, 2023

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

I BELIEVE THAT CULTURALLY AND ETHNICALLY DIVERSE OREGONIANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO ACCESS HEALTHY FOOD. I believe that Oregon's history of structural racism and segregation has caused a critical dearth of healthy foods in our most diverse communities. I am writing on behalf of Growing Gardens and Faubion Elementary School's garden program 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 the garden educator at Faubion Elementary school. I have seen firsthand the impact of farm to school, education and gardening programs on our diverse community. This has improved the nutrition of our students and families, brought community members together, and is moving our community towards greater food equity, and justice.

As an educator, producer, child nutrition professional, parent, support organization, etc

I support this grant program because.

- It builds physical and mental health and wellness amidst culturally and ethnically diverse community members.
- 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.

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.

Elizabeth Lattig Growing Gardens Portland, OR