

Submitter: David Tourzan
On Behalf Of: Public School Teacher and Parent
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Date

Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and members of the Committee:

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I am writing on behalf of public school teachers and parents in Southern Oregon in support of maintaining the current service level of \$10.2M dollars for the Farm to School Grant Program. 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, leverages federal dollars to support dependable business relationships between schools and food producers and maintain consistent educational programs that connect students to agriculture and nutrition

As an educator and parent of 2 kids in the Oregon public school system I support this grant program because it supports schools as hubs for communities especially during times of crisis such as wildfires and pandemic. For many students, school lunches are the only decent meal they get, and adequate nutrition is a key component of being ready to learn. I have seen kids show up with gummy worms and soda for breakfast, and though school lunches are mediocre at best, they are far superior to candy and soda.

I ask that you support including this grant program in the state budget at the current level of \$10.2 million so this program can continue to support healthy kids, schools and communities.

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