

Submitter: David Phares

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5025

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 5025, Appropriating moneys to General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

My name is David Reed Phares, I had the honor of working as one of two Crew Supervisors during the inaugural session of Northwest Youth Corp's Community Wildfire Protection Corps, as well as during subsequent sessions. I currently work in the Regional Office of the U.S. Forest Service as a Resource Assistant and Digital Media Specialist. My time with Northwest Youth Corps allowed me to build critical leadership skills, as well as participate in direct service to communities in need. As a member of CWPC myself and my crew provided wildfire risk reduction work to private property owners completely free of cost to the property owner, while building skill-sets needed to continue working in natural resources. It is not an exaggeration to say that Community Wildfire Protection Corps (CWPC) allowed me to become the person I am today - a year later. Working in CWPC allowed me to make the leap from seasonal conservation work to a renewable (every 3-4 months) position as a crew supervisor, and from there as a Resource Assistant with the Forest Service. By investing in CWPC the State of Oregon is investing in not only the increased safety of it's communities, but the increased potential of it's workforce.