

Submitter: Isabella Llados
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: 2026 Agency Reduction Options

My name is Isabella Llados, and I am a student and DECA chapter co-president of Ida B. Wells High School. I am submitting this testimony to urge the Committee to protect funding for Career and Technical Education programs and Career and Technical Student Organizations.

DECA has had a major impact on my life. As a first-generation American, my parents immigrated from Argentina and did not have access to the same opportunities here in the U.S. Programs like DECA gave me the confidence to see what I wanted to pursue and the skills to take the steps to get there. Through DECA, I learned leadership, teamwork, and professional skills, and I applied them to advocate for DECA to become an elective at my school so more students could join. The confidence and experience I gained directly through this CTSO helped me secure an internship with TeamWorkNation, where I worked to teach and develop curriculum to younger, elementary-aged students.

Without funding for CTE programs and CTSOs, students like me may lose access to experiences that help us discover our passions, build skills, and take meaningful steps toward careers and education. These programs give students real-world opportunities to grow, lead, and contribute to their communities. I hope the Committee will continue to support CTE programs and CTSOs in Oregon so students can continue learning, building confidence, and preparing for their futures.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Isabella Llados
Ida B. Wells DECA Chapter Co-President