

To the members of the House Subcommittee on Education,

I am submitting this letter in support of HB 2594.

As a native Oregonian and lifelong public school student, the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) helped me realize my dream of working in public service. I hold two degrees from the University of Oregon (B.A., M.P.A), where I was involved with SYCP as a student, an intern, and a graduate research fellow.

Over my seven years at University of Oregon, SCYP provided me and my peers with opportunities to perform real work and see it implemented. As an undergraduate, I participated in a mapping project to help expand data-driven transit options for Lane Transit District. In graduate school, I worked with TriMet and the City of Tualatin on a revenue analysis project that gave me direct experience for my current role as a government financial analyst. I also interned with the City of Albany after their SCYP partnership to analyze student work products and begin to implement those concepts. Finally, during my internship with the City of Springfield, I helped implement a public art project designed by SCYP students.

Given my experiences and the ways in which SCYP helped propel my career forward, I enthusiastically support how HB 2594 can offer these powerful learning opportunities to more students and more Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Kerry (Edinger) Willhite
Eugene, OR
M.P.A., Public Administration, University of Oregon, 2018
B.A., University of Oregon Clark Honors College, 2013