



Leadership for Sustainability Education
Educational Leadership and Policy
College of Education
P. O. Box 751
Portland, OR 97207-0751

June 3, 2019

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am a parent and faculty member at Portland State University, Portland, Oregon. I'm writing to ask you to support HB 2579 and the most recent Amendments, to expand funding for Oregon's farm to school and school garden programs. HB 2579 expands funding for schools to buy Oregon foods and for farm- and garden-based education.

Having worked with many schools for over two decades, I can attest to the significance of this initiative and commend you for your foresight and support for our children, many of whom are vulnerable. Farm to school programs support students, farmers and communities.

I have seen these programs make a difference to benefit students plus the bridging of the urban/rural divide. The educational value of these programs is now increasingly supported by research. I am also enclosing a recent NBC news article showing the value of school gardens to non-white and low income populations as research increasingly shows the value of such programs at many fronts.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/how-garden-based-learning-helps-students-color-n987246>.

Please do all you can to advance and fully fund HB 2579.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dilafruz R. Williams'.

Dilafruz R. Williams, Ph.D.
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