

Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

As an agriculture teacher in the North Clackamas School District, I would like to share with you the value and impact that HB 2444 (2019) has had on students in our district. Funding from HB 2444 has reduced financial barriers for many students to be engaged in multiple leadership development activities that have kept students engaged in the educational process. State FFA Convention is one example where access has been granted to all students due to this funding. Virtual access to a high quality convention allowed over 100 students access to engagement. The impact of this funding has also allowed Oregon FFA to increase and enhance existing resources for all of our students in the area of career development skills. Veterinary Science, animal science, biotechnology, and greenhouse management are just a few of the areas that have been instrumental for students in our program. Due to the enhanced virtual experience offered by Oregon FFA staff, our students were able to compete in numerous high quality competitions and we now have a parliamentary procedure team now moving on to the national level

We are also very excited about the new FFA leadership programming that is being developed for ALL members, grades 9-14 coming from Oregon FFA. Increasing engagement of all members in every grade will surely be impactful in the future. Proving access to typically underserved students has helped students stay engaged during COVID and I am excited to see what the future holds when educational settings continue to move back towards in person school.

Thank you for your support of Oregon FFA and your commitment to providing career and technical opportunities to our students.