

Joint Ways and Means Committee members,

First and foremost, thank you for continuing the grueling work to support education during these times, your hard work does not go unnoticed. Secondly, thank you for supporting FFA and summer programming; this year has seen more engagement than expected during COVID. It is engagement opportunities like Career Development Events, conferences, and State Convention that have kept our FFA members engaged in the classroom.

I'd like to share my own story at Sherwood High School as an agricultural educator. While our suburban area continues to grow and the makeup of our student body shifts, it became apparent this last year that agricultural education remains important as ever, but what students needed was an open field to access these opportunities. With the passing of HB2444, our chapter opened its doors to all members who entered our classroom; a more diverse set of learners and career seekers. FFA provides these members with more opportunities to seek out internships and summer jobs that explore their career interests and passions. It has also built learning and mentorship relationships with community partners, not possible without funding.

We are excited about the possibility of new leadership materials and programming made available from HB2444. This will certainly increase the reach to students who have been historically underserved.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Allison Meadows