

Chair and members of the committee, my name is Thomas McCall, and I'm a graduate of Silverton High School of Marion County. During my time at SHS, I took classes from the business, food preparation, and digital media departments. I also joined FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) and served as both a member and Chief Financial Officer. After taking numerous courses under the business program I became a program completer, netting me one of my three honors diplomas.

My time in FBLA, a business CTSO, gave me experiences I never would've had outside of it. I learned how to speak publicly, conduct fundraisers, and create a budget for our chapter.

CTSO's and CTE are crucial for a student's high school experience, both in terms of graduation and anecdotal experiences. The students in these programs are more enticed with the curriculum, study harder, and work harder than those not. There is a noticeable, verifiable difference in effort given by those in CTE and CTSO's.

My junior year in FBLA was one of the most life-changing experiences. I was able to travel all over Oregon, and even to Texas through the organization, as well as compete in events that eventually titled me 1st place in Accounting 1. The educational opportunities were never lacking, and have proved useful for me even today. Aside from education, FBLA gave me some of the sweetest memories I made in High School, such as an overnight sleepover in the high school, doing an escape room, making a pillow fort across a hotel room, and going to an amusement park with my chapter and friends.

CTSO's help students who want to lead and make a difference. They give us so many opportunities to bond with our classmates, meet others who share our interests, compete in events we are passionate about, and gain new experiences and skills to put under our belt. The reason I have my current job is because of community service I did under a CTSO, and the scholarships I have were aided by the CTE Department.

The CTE Department allowed me to explore career paths I was interested in, whereas other common core classes allowed little exploration. I studied marketing, business management, and eventually landed on the career I'm studying to attain; an accountant. If it weren't for the CTE Department, I likely wouldn't know what career I want.

Bill 2413 should be passed so you can see for yourselves just how proficient and robust our departments are after countless hours of refinement from our hard-working teachers. I'm sure they won't let you down, and you'll find the pros of the department are plenty worth the funding.

Bill 2414 should be passed so CTSO's can offer even more opportunities for their members. Giving students the option to go to more events, more field trips, and to give them more of the items they need for success is a slam dunk by any measure.

Please consider passing bills 2413 and 2414 for the students who take every ounce of utility and support they can get out of CTE and CTSO's

Thank you for your time.