

Submitter: Logan Garner

On Behalf Of: Northwest Oregon Works

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5014

To Senator Frederick, Representative McLain and the Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill 5014 to appropriate moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Education for certain expenses, and am sharing today with particular regard to the budget and work of the Youth Development Council and the Youth Development Division (collectively Youth Development Oregon). As a grantee of their Reengagement Opportunity Grant for the 2021-2023 biennium, Northwest Oregon Works has served over 200 youth, assisting them not only toward academic success in high schools and GED programs on Oregon's north coast, but also by providing Student Success Coaches to work with individual students and community partners in addressing the many barriers that rural, low-income youth face in setting and reaching goals. Youth Development Oregon acts as a lynchpin in providing dollars and support to organizations directly serving youth in our state by making grants of course, but also by participating in consistent local and regional conversations to steer their resources toward the greatest need in terms of youth support through secondary education and into the workforce. A particular measure of our success as community partners under YDO grants is our work with Clatsop Community College, where GED completion rates for youth (16-21 years old) rose twofold during this biennium, and now accounts for 80% of all GED completions in their program. Our Student Success Coach model of service, made possible by funds, support, and constant communication with YDO, has led us to duplicate this programming to cover our entire service area of Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Lincoln and Benton counties. The programs and funding of YDO are agile and responsive to need, and our success and the success of the student participants we serve are evidence of this thoughtful approach. The youth that are supported and elevated by Youth Development Oregon are truly the future of this state, and the work being done to further their opportunities and to reduce their barriers to education and career development is highlighted by this department by the actions and outcomes of its people and programs--certainly more than my words can convey. Thank you for your time. I sincerely hope you will support this measure.

Logan Garner

Youth Programs Manager

Northwest Oregon Works