Submitter:	Katie Nguyen
On Behalf Of:	Katie Nguyen
Committee:	Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure:	SB5506

Dear Co-Chairs and Ways & Means Committee members, I want to request $1.2 million in funding for a second cycle of Youth Voice Youth Vote Participatory Budgeting (www.youthpb.org). I am a strong advocate for the work this particular process is leading and guiding, and as a current participant in the inaugural YV^2 PB process I believe it to be paramount that we provide our local community with a second opportunity. PB is a deliberately democratic process wherein every-day citizens get to determine how best to allocate a portion of a public budget (within parameters set forth by public officials). This process is done through binding vote and is the epitome of democracy. Youth Voice Youth Vote Participatory Budgeting has activated the local youth population to determine how to spend $500,000 in ARPA funds - this process has drawn participation from over 1000 youths in the East Portland, East Multnomah County, and North Clackamas county areas. They've expanded their leadership and organizing skills, enhancing and rebuilding community, relationships, and mental health in the wake of the pandemic, and are on their way to becoming experts and advocates in public budgeting and participatory budgeting. They've also had the opportunity to connect more directly with some of the most innovative leaders in health care, professional development, and community resource building. These youths, in partnership with local non-profits and organizations, are addressing the core of their community's concerns, creating projects that address public health, economic justice, housing insecurity and houselessness, and the desperate need for youth-centered services. By allocating funds to a second cycle of Youth Voice Youth Vote, you put the budgeting power in the hands of the most vulnerable communities. Give them a say, give them a voice. Fund Youth Voice Youth Vote Participatory Budgeting in the 2023-2025 Oregon State Budget.