

Submitter: Elise Pfrommer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

March 14, 2025

Co-Chairs Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz and members of the
Committee:

I am writing in support of the Farm to School Grant Program. As a garden educator with an organization that receives funding from the Farm to School grant, I have seen first-hand the profound impacts that school garden programs have on my students. The garden provides a space for hands-on learning and allows students who may not always be successful in the traditional classroom setting to engage with content material and feel seen and valued. Additionally, many of my partner teachers have discussed with me how garden class helps students regulate their emotions and reduces disruptive behavior. My students look forward to garden class, and I believe that having it makes them more likely to come to school on days they know they will be in the garden. In a time where many of our local schools struggle with attendance issues, I believe that having garden class and other Farm to School programming can be part of the solution.

Thank you so much for your time and support of SB 5515.

Sincerely,
Elise Pfrommer