

Submitter: Sarah Davey
On Behalf Of: 12 Million for Farm to School
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

March 12, 2025

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

I am testifying today in support of funding for the Farm to School Grant Program included in the Oregon Department of Education's budget. This Grant program is essential for the state of Oregon and it's students to provide a hands on learning experience about garden education. I am personally connected to the Farm to School Program through my job. I have personally seen and experienced the positive impact this program has on our communities through the state.

Being an instructor and program manager for Farm to School, I have had many encounters with teachers, principals, community members and students. I have experienced many positive moments because of Farm to School. More than once, I have had students try kale, radishes, beets and other vegetables for the first time and instantly light up from a new favorite discovery. I have witnessed students showing pride for themselves after picking cucumbers they grew to be served at lunch for the whole school. I have seen students beg to pick a leaf off the kale plant because they loved it so much. With numerous, almost countless happy stories I have also experienced complete shock and a large reminder why I am in this work. On one of my first weeks working, a 1st grader came up to me and said how she would like to pick a vegetable so she can take it home to cook so she won't be hungry that night. I have had students come to the garden just because they were hungry and hadn't eaten enough. I have had to explain to 3rd grade students that vegetables from the store actually come from the ground and nature. They thought those vegetable were made in factories. With all these moments, and the many more I don't have time to tell, they always ensure that what Farm to School does, represents and fights for is an overall positive outcome. An outcome that is essential for our future hope, an outcome that is essential for healthy people, a healthy community, a healthy earth.

I support additional funding for the Farm to School program because I believe these

extra funds will continue and further garden education so our future is filled with people who know how important it is to support farmers. To fill the world with people who know how to grow their own food. To fill the world with people who stand up and fight for food justice. To fill the world with people who care and nourish our community, planet and themselves. This investment goes beyond.

With my heart full of cherished moments, I ask that you support Farm to School's grant program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget at \$12 million.

Thank you.

Sarah Davey
Umpqua Valley Farm to School
Roseburg, OR