

Submitter:

Jim Labbe

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB749

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I strongly support SB 749 to launch school-based participatory budgeting processes in Oregon. Students deserve a voice in shaping their learning environments. They have unique perspectives to governing their schools and they are underrepresented in the decisions that impact them. Sharing real power with students through mechanisms like participatory budgeting sends them the genuine message that their voice matters. And providing the opportunity to exercise real power over public investments to improve their schools is proof of concept for life long voting and civic participation. For many students this bill will impact, voting is just around the corner. This legislation would launch the first school-based participatory budgeting process in Oregon and build the capacity in schools, like Reynolds High School, to make it a permanent part of civic and project-based learning in Oregon, learning turbo charged by the opportunity for students to exercise real power and make decisions of consequence for their lives and their schools.

Thank you for your support for this legislation.

Sincerely

Jim Labbe

Board Chair

Participatory Budgeting Oregon

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