

Submitter: Kristin Johnson

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,

My name is Kristin Johnson, and I live in Bethany. I am writing to testify in strong support of the School Participatory Budgeting Act, SB 749, which will create a \$500,000 pilot program that would allow students to decide investments in their schools, thereby enhancing their educational environment and preparing students to be lifelong civic participants.

We live in incredibly uncertain times, and now more than ever, youth need agency in their futures. Participatory Budgeting is an incredible way to engage youth and give them a voice. I have no doubt this will be a life changing experience for many. I remember the first time I felt empowered as a youth, supported by adults to advocate for a local teen center in the rural town I grew up in. This experience, supported by adults, ensured a life long commitment to civic engagement. I want this same experience for other youth and I whole heartedly believe this program could do that. Be the adults supporting youth in an opportunity that promotes their agency.

I urge you to please support the School Participatory Budgeting Act and give our youth the opportunity to engage in important decision making for their futures.

Thank you,
Kristin