

March 24, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Education

RE: Strong Support for SB 749

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

My name is Destiny Nderitu, I am a student at Gresham High School and I live in Gresham. I am writing to testify in strong support of the School Participatory Budgeting Act, SB 749, which will create a 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.

I am currently growing and learning as a participant in the 2025 Student Leaders for PB Cohort. So far, participating in this cohort has taught me the importance of democracy and the weight of youth voice. I have learned skills such as project planning, teamwork, and responsibilities. PB is a great opportunity for other youth and is often a bridge so that youth prepare themselves for continued participation in their communities and for national and statewide elections so that the youth voter turnout may increase. As well as so that they may be able to be efficient and effective in work settings in their near future. As a Kenyan-American student who has moved across states and been in many new environments, being accepted by others is an important factor to feeling comfortable in the space you're in. By passing the School Participatory Act this will allow students of all backgrounds to be more engaged in their school's, share their concerns and feel more received by the administrators which ultimately result in a more positive school environment.

I urge you to support the School Participatory Budgeting Act and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,

Destiny Nderitu