

Submitter: Danny Cage

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB749

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

My name is Danny Cage, and I live in Portland. 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 on investments in their schools,

As a school board member, I have gotten to see first hand what happens when our communities at the local level are empowered. During Covid when the Oregon legislature previously invested in Participatory Budgeting "Youth voice Youth vote" in east Multnomah county we got to see what happens when we truly see our youth as collaborators with democracy. PB continues to be an example of meaningful investment that we can make while addressing current barriers for many of those with public budgets and growing concerns that many in the education community feel disconnected from the decisions their local community makes.

The School Participatory Budgeting Act expands access to local options for our democracy and students. I am urging you to pass the School Participatory Budgeting Act out of committee as we continue to create holistic community schools for all Oregonians.

Thank you,

Danny Cage

Board of Directors, Multnomah Education Service District