

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 Mukarama Mohammad Ayuf Ali and I am a student at Reynolds High School. 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 was involved in Youth Voice Youth Vote, the first participatory budgeting process in Oregon. Being a Budget Delegate for the Youth Voice Youth Vote process and a Student Leader for the Student Leaders for Participatory Budgeting cohort has truly been a transformative experience for me. PB holds a special place in my heart because it's such a welcoming and supportive program. It played a significant role in my personal growth, boosting my confidence and helping me recognize my own abilities. Through PB, I was able to showcase what I can do and developed a deeper understanding and passion for my community. The friendships and connections I made were incredible, and I wholeheartedly recommend this program to all youth. There's something valuable for everyone here!

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

Thank you,

Mukarama Mohammad Ayuf Ali