

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2826

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Winlock High School

I am the State Vice President of Washington State Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and I have been an active member of this organization for the past four years. Because of my involvements, I am able to take on the leadership role in any situation without hesitation and contribute to the best of my abilities. I have given speeches in front of over 9,000 people at the National Leadership Conference, 2,000 people at the State Business Leadership Conference and many groups of a few hundred or less. With the knowledge, skill, and encouragement FBLA has given me, I feel comfortable speaking in front of others; and I feel this helps me be a better leader in my school and community.

The real-world preparation FBLA provides is different than what other groups, such as Associated Student Body and leadership class, offers. These groups only offer experience in that school. FBLA allows students to prepare for competition within their own school chapter and then to compete against the best competitors from schools in their area, schools from across the state, and the finest the United States has to offer. Competing against the top student members is how students learn and become better at one or more of the sixty competitive business events offered by FBLA. State officers of FBLA experience an active leadership role throughout their term of office by planning and coordinating regional conferences and working together to create the State Business Leadership Conference, which is a key component of the organization at the state level. State officers are also ambassadors between FBLA members and the public. My participation in events and responsibilities as an officer have and will continue to help me to become a strong businessperson and capable student.

Being a member of a career and technical student organization, such as Future Business Leaders of America, has helped me to advance my leadership abilities and everyday communication within my school, home, and community activities. FBLA has given me opportunities to travel to places throughout the state and country, and the chance to make new friends who share in many of the same interests and goals I have, as well as friends who share different interests and opinions. This membership has also given me a competitive edge in the college and scholarship application process, because FBLA is a highly recognized national business organization.

My membership in this exciting and educational business organization has helped me grow into a strong leader with an honest lifestyle and has taught me to act as a role model not only in the organization, but also in society; and being a positive role model is one of the biggest attributes of a great leader. Without career and technical student organizations it would not be possible to prepare students, such as myself, to this large of an extent and to give dynamic hands-on experience in multiple fields of study. For my opportunities, I am ever grateful to my advisers, the organization, and the State of Washington for their support of this crucial organization.