

**February 8th, 2021**

**HB 1142 Testimony**

**House Appropriations Human Resource Division- Chairman Nelson**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Good morning, my name is Benjamin Patton. I am currently a senior at Legacy High School and Vice President of our school's HOSA chapter. This will be my third year as a member of the organization.

HOSA has been played an influential role in my education. The group has allowed me to not only become informed on the myriad of different healthcare careers, but it's also allowed me to grow in my leadership capabilities. I enjoy HOSA because it allows me to connect with others through a common passion and interest in the healthcare realm of the workforce. I am highly involved with several other organizations and teams at my school, so I know how important it is to find other students that share common interests, and I think HOSA is a vital key in the search process for many students.

Over the past 3 years, I have found many of the activities that HOSA facilitates extremely rewarding and gratifying. I have enjoyed things like planning for fundraisers and blood drives, organizing teacher appreciation cards, and sending thank-you bags to our local healthcare workers. While I am often too busy to attend every leadership conference and the state and national competitions, I only hear good things from my nearest friends about their experiences. The conferences and competitions can teach some hard skills like CPR, first aid, sports medicine, and basic medical terminology, but I think, most importantly, that these events teach us members how to collaborate, lead, and prepare all while having the ability to do so under the common passion for the health and medical sciences. These events also grant us the opportunity to meet others from around the local area, state, and perhaps the world with the exact same interests we do. I found that it is with these experiences that motivate and inspire others to pursue careers in the medical field after high school and become the best, working citizens they can be in the future.

Additionally, students who wish to compete and participate in the many opportunities that HOSA allows are able to win awards, recognition, and even scholarships that would only add to the skills they learned and the memories that made to propel students into life after college. For me, HOSA has definitely given me a guide to what I want to do and who I want to be entering my adult life. I'd say, without a doubt, HOSA has sparked an interest that I will carry into the workforce and life after school.

With the help of state funding, HOSA will only further encourage more students to do the same. HOSA adds aspects to education that basic high school classes simply cannot reciprocate. Students will learn to collaborate, communicate, and maybe even discover a passion that leads to a career that they cherish for their entire life. Students in HOSA are exposed to opportunities unique to the club that no organization may have to offer. For any student who wants to be prepared for education and work after high school, this organization is truly like no other, so funding is crucial to support these future professionals no matter what role they decide to take on.

I urge a do pass on House Bill 1142. I sincerely thank you for this opportunity, and will be more than happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Benjamin Patton  
HOSA Vice President  
Legacy High School

