

To: House Finance Committee
House Bill No.8047 RELATING TO EDUCATION -- BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES IN
OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME
From: **Fredys Cabrera**
RE: Testimony in Strong Support of House Bill No.8047
Date: May 9, 2024

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is **Fredys Cabrera** and I am a student at Jorge Alvarez HSI as well as a member of young voices. I am here in support of HB.8047 introduced by Rep Shallcross Smith, which provides \$4 million to support after-school and school vacation, summer learning workforce development programs for K-12 students with annual reports on status and programs.

This bill is important to me because I am and have been a part of many afterschool and summer programs such as Downcity Design in my freshman year, as220 in my sophomore and junior year, and currently Young Voices. These programs have all been hurt by low budgets, and slow and few grant opportunities that support existing programming.

We need to pass this bill because it would allow organizations to be able to fund their specific programs. For example, AS220's media lab has only 3 cameras that are 10 years old. Though functional, the quality of the digital media could be vastly improved if the organization was funded to be able to buy additional, newer equipment. AS220 has already taught me incredible skills in digital photography, but I can only imagine the incredible impact a funding source like the BOOST Bill could provide. This can be said with all of the out-of-school time experiences I have done.

Currently, 59,000 local youth are without out-school time program opportunities, let alone ones that are underfunded. It is critical that we invest in out-of-school time so that every student has access to comprehensive and effective programming during afterschool and summer learning.

I really hope you consider how important this is to me. We are depending on you to make the right decision.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

Fredys Cabrera
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