March 19, 2013

Dear Committee Chair Gelser and House Education Committee,

We have a daughter in the 9th grade at Riverdale High School. We pay tuition for her to attend. Riverdale was our daughter's first choice because she wanted a small school with small class sizes and attentive teachers. She also wanted a rigorous academic environment, and the students at Riverdale are engaged and hardworking. Riverdale also has a record of successfully preparing students for college that rivals the area's private schools. Finally, because of its small size, most students at Riverdale participate in athletics and other after-school activities. We were not disappointed--our daughter loves Riverdale and feels it is the perfect school for her.

After our daughter was accepted into Riverdale, we sought a transfer from the Portland Public School District to the Riverdale School District. Unfortunately, we were told that it was extremely unlikely that the PPS District would release our daughter unless we could show some hardship. Yet the PPS District does not offer the same kind of school as Riverdale High School.

Thus, if it were not for Riverdale, we probably would have sent our daughter to a private high school to meet her needs. For this reason, it seems that Oregon's private schools are the ones that will benefit from this bill, not Oregon's public schools or Oregon's students. If this bill goes forward, the state of Oregon will continue to lose students to private schools, and more importantly we will limit our students' choices.

Let's support Oregon public schools and continue to offer choices to our students by **voting no** on this proposed bill.

Sincerely,

Karen Solomon

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