



To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Richard Donovan, Oregon School Boards Association
Re: House Bill 3313
Date: May 8, 2017

Chair Roblan and members of the Senate Education Committee:

On behalf of OSBA's membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3313, as amended by the -4 amendments.

HB 3313 concerns a specific set of circumstances, namely when a charter school is established to serve the needs of a geographic area within a school district after that school district has closed a school that previously served that geographic area. When this happens, and the charter school begins to function as a so-called neighborhood school, the State Board of Education may permit the charter school to give admissions priority for students residing within the former attendance boundary of the closed school. HB 3313 seeks to make it easier for charter schools in this circumstance to attain this admissions priority by automatically extending it to the school. The -4 amendments add some requirements before the admissions priority is extended, specifically: requiring that the school be chartered with the local school districts; that the school operate within the attendance boundary in question; and, that the local school district board approve the admissions priority via board action.

OSBA supports passage of HB 3313, as amended by the -4 amendments. The introduced bill was too broad, and OSBA opposed the measure. It could have caused unintended consequences, eroded local control, and severely restricted local school districts' ability to manage enrollment.

Rep. Barnhart, in his role as chief sponsor of the measure, graciously listened to our concerns, agreed to address them, and sponsored the -4 amendments. These amendments place appropriate restrictions to preserve local control. OSBA is unaware of any opposition to the measure or to the amendments, and urges your support for HB 3313 as amended by the -4s.

I am happy to answer any questions.

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