

Baker Charter Schools 2725 7th St Baker City, OR 97814 <u>http://www.bakercharters.org</u> 541-524-2300

February 5, 2018

RE: SB 1520

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this testimony in favor of keeping the sunset in place on SB 1520. As superintendent of Baker Charter Schools and president of Oregon Digital Leaders Coalition, one of my primary objectives is to foster quality online learning experiences for Oregon students. I believe there is tremendous potential for online learning to meet the needs of today's learners. In my experience in this field for the last ten years, I have personally witnessed the harmful effects of corporate leadership in Oregon schools through parent, student, and staff testimony.

Leadership can have a tremendous impact on student, staff, and parent experiences in education. In my experience, I have witnessed a much higher turn over rate and general instability in leadership where company's provided central administration positions. The volatility has been a nightmare for students, parents, and staff alike. By allowing the sunset to occur, all the employees at any Oregon charter school would be Oregon based employees with local knowledge, experience, licensure, and be allowed to participate in PERS. Also, I will say that I believe in the importance of local control when it comes to leadership of our charters. Local leaders will understand the needs of the school, students, parents, and staff and ensure their unique needs are being met. Finally, I believe that by allowing the sunset to occur Oregon virtual schools we will be able to provide local, stable, and committed leadership.

I would ask to keep the sunset in place. This solution was put in place years ago for a situation that is no longer relevant. For the betterment of Oregon online education, please allow the sunset to occur. I recommend removing the language regarding the sunset provision and enabling the transition to happen as planned.

All the best,

Daniel Huld, Ed. D. Superintendent Baker Charter Schools <u>dhuld@bakercharters.org</u> 503-929-3393