

TO: Joint Committee on Student Success
FROM: *Karly Wade*
RE: HB 2019
DATE: April 11, 2019

Co-chairs Roblan and Smith-Warner and members of the committee,

I am the middle school theatre teacher at Redmond Proficiency Academy.

In just over a year's time, these kids have impacted me in so many ways. Most importantly, I've seen how accommodating different learning styles can contribute to much greater student success.

I work with kids daily who:

- ride the bus for almost 2 hours to get to school from outlying areas because they need access to our school
- do not have access to nutritious foods at home
- have never been outside of Central Oregon
- want to learn and grow so that they can become actors, police, doctors, teachers, etc.
- do not have adequate family support systems (finances or available parents)

Refusing funding to charter school students creates a further divide for students that already don't have access to what they need at home.

All students deserve equal opportunities to learn, grow and be successful - leaving charter school students out leaves 40,000+ Oregon charter school students behind. I know 300+ of them personally - and know that they deserve access to everything we can possibly offer them so that they can be their best selves.

I cannot state this strongly enough: charter school students deserve to be included in the Fund.

With sincere thanks,

Karly Wade

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