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BAKER CHARTER SCHOOLS

March 5th, 2021

Chair and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Daniel Huld, Superintendent of Baker Charter Schools and President of Oregon Digital Leaders Coalition. Baker Web Academy is a large statewide locally managed virtual charter school with 2,750 students, 160 staff members, and 8 student centers spread across Oregon. Oregon Digital Leaders Coalition is our non-profit virtual school leaders collaborative group representing the majority of the 22 virtual schools in Oregon. From each of these perspectives I am supportive of looking at educational pathways in Oregon, but want to ensure we have equal representation on the task force.

Oregon students are fortunate to have many choices for their educational journey, yet the silos and inequities in this system often put barriers for students to find success. Many Oregon students and families are not fully aware of all their options and opportunities. Everyone on the committee knows that we can do better. Oregon is consistently around the 35th or 36th state for education. While we are improving, having a cohesive and well-managed education system is a great step forward. Oversight and management of charter schools, alternative education programs, juvenile detention education programs, and GED programs are important and much-needed work. For those reasons, I support the need for this task force.

My main concern is to ensure that the committee understands the value of having educators participate in the task force. I want to request an amendment to include a school leader from each of the areas impacted by this bill. Current practitioners should be included in the important conversations contained in this bill. Leaders in the field will have an in-depth understanding of the current best practices, have the ability to collaborate with stakeholders and other school leaders within their group, and be able to share that information with the task-force to make informed decisions about these important options.

Thanks for all you do for Oregon students and for hearing my testimony today.

Sincerely,

Daniel Huld, Ed. D.
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