

I support removing the 3% Charter law cap in Oregon as I feel it is a civil rights issue to deny a student access to a program that has the potential to be a quality educational scenario for them and/or their families. As an Oregon educator whom has worked in various realms including response to intervention programs, contained behavioral classrooms, as an in home advisory teacher in a 1 to 1 setting, and a parent support liaison, I cannot express the true need for each student to be met where they are and given full attention, funding, and opportunities. Our tendency to assume that a brick and mortar option is the most desired way to educate children uses an outdated and inequitable lens. It does not account for the intricate ways in which the brain responds best to instruction. It does not offer those that do not have the knowledge of how this limiting cap works to be given a chance at a better outcome. This cap holds the same groups of people in place without allowing a chance for all to move freely throughout their educational experiences. Those without the income for a private school cannot exercise their knowledge or hopes for what is best for their own child. Those that randomly stumble upon a charter option by word of mouth, are often simply out of luck. The 3% accounts for those that have already acquired knowledge about how to find an alternative, not those seeking knowledge for the first time. I have seen families spend countless hours making cases to appeal denial decisions, and I have seen others simply feel another round of societal defeat and walk away. I have also seen students try a charter school only to realize that the brick and mortar actually is a better fit, thereby returning to their neighborhood school with a new sense of determination. We cannot possibly understand each families' or students' unique needs. Truly caring for kids requires we consider the lifelong implications of limiting their educational choice. Oregon can do more for our kids. It is time to create a fair and balanced system.

Sincerely,

Lynsey Martin

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