

My name is Bernice Torrez, and I am writing in support of SB 240 and raising the 3 percent enrollment cap on virtual schools. For this current school year, our school had not really settled how they were going to proceed with onsite/hybrid/online schooling at the time we looked into charter online schools. We wanted to be settled in our decision prior to the start of the school year.

For the upcoming school year, there is a possibility our student will be placed with the teacher that has been overseeing the online kindergarten year. We are confident in her ability to provide the enrichment education our student craves. If, however, she is moved to a grade other than first, we are more concerned about the appropriate program for our student.

In future years, we are concerned about our small district's being able to provide potential gifted education. While we can provide enrichment at home, we are not qualified to identify specific needs nor prescribe appropriate programs. It may prove, through our research, to be the best educational setting for our student through charter schools — most likely online given our location. If the 3 percent cap were already reached, then we may be unable to access the most appropriate education for our student. Previously, prior charter students were given priority for permission to continue with charter schools. This makes it very difficult for newer students to enter charter schools when that situation may be the most appropriate setting for them.