

I want to thank the Education Committee Chair and the Committee for this opportunity to testify on SB240.

My name is Amanda Dow. I live in Pendleton. I am the parent of a student I am seeking to enroll full-time to a virtual public charter school. I tried enrolling my child in Baker Web Academy, he was accepted by them but we were denied release from The Pendleton School District due to the 3% cap. I appealed the decision to the Oregon Department of Education and was denied once again. My husband and I chose Baker Web Academy because of the curriculum they have to offer, how well they are already established, and the certified teachers they have. We feel this is the best route and fit for our child. As a parent, we should be able to enroll our student in the school of our choice and not have the school district or the Oregon Department of Education deny our request to enroll in a charter school, like they did. I am currently homeschooling our child and will continue to do so as he sits on the waiting list that the school district has in place. Thousands of students are being denied and are on these waiting lists, just waiting to be released to enroll in virtual charter schools of their choice. This is all due to the 3% enrollment cap that is in place. I urge legislators to eliminate the enrollment cap so that more students can take advantage of this important education option. We really want our student to be given the opportunity we think he needs and the things he can achieve while attending Baker Web Academy.

Thanks for your time and for your consideration of eliminating the 3% enrollment cap,
Amanda Dow