

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

My name is Lyndsey Martinez and I live in Pendleton.

I am writing you today about the 3% cap that the Oregon school districts have on allowing children to attend virtual charter schools. My experience with this was very frustrating and completely unfair. After having nothing but bad experiences with the schools in our small town I decided to start homeschooling. I registered all three of my children as homeschoolers. I did a lot of research on my options and curriculums. I found Baker Web Academy and loved what they had to offer and that I could pick the curriculums and still be held accountable. I decided that Baker Web Academy was a perfect fit for our family and for all three of my children. I went through all the necessary steps and BWA accepted my kids. I was very excited and relieved. However the school district denied us because the 3% cap had been met. I was so confused and upset. I had never heard of this, it should always be my decision as to where my children go to school. My son was going into kindergarten so he was never even a part of the district to begin with. They were homeschoolers as well so I don't understand why it mattered. I asked to have my kids put on any necessary waiting lists and continue to homeschool. I support lifting the 3% cap. I think parents should always be able to decide what schools their children attend. This would help thousands of families and it is the right thing to do. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Lyndsey Martinez