



PORTLAND  
VILLAGE  
SCHOOL  
a public charter school



7654 N. Delaware Ave. Portland, OR. 97217

Phone: 503-445-0056

Fax: 503-445-0058

[www.portlandvillageschool.org](http://www.portlandvillageschool.org)

5/12/21

Chair Teresa Alonso Leon  
House Education Committee  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Jennifer Stackhouse. I am the Executive Director of Portland Village School, a Public Charter School in North Portland. I am submitting this letter on behalf of the PVS community in support of House Bill 2954.

Portland Village School, and all of Oregon's public charter schools provide unique learning environments that help students thrive and excel. The ability of Public Charter schools to provide an innovative educational model to serve Oregon's students is important service to our community. We believe these opportunities should be intentionally made more available to students from historically underserved communities. The legislation of House Bill 2954 is a thoughtful, proven way to do that.

Public charter schools, working in tandem with their sponsoring district or the Board of Education, offer innovative approaches to help students achieve. When these schools find ways to close opportunity gaps for historically underserved students, statute should support strategies to make those learning environments more available to the students that can most benefit from them.

Under current law, the only preferences public charter schools can provide in enrollment is to siblings of members who currently attend that school. HB 2954 expands that preference by allowing a weighted lottery to benefit specific student populations. By giving a leg up to students who can most benefit from these learning environments, we can expand the ability of our public charter schools to be full partners in the equity in education occurring across the state.

Weighted lotteries are not a new concept for promoting equities. Other states have adopted these changes to charter school enrollment and see the positive impact they have in data driven analyses. It is time for Oregon to do the same.

At PVS we have lobbied for this important tool to support diversity, equity and inclusion and close achievement gaps. We ask today that you allow us the opportunity to continue to serve the students of the Portland area using the weighted lottery model. We have seen the difference this makes for our families of historically underserved students, who accept enrollment at PVS at nearly twice the rate of non-weighted applicants.

I appreciate the opportunity to share our experience and support on behalf of House Bill 2954. I urge the committee to adopt it and would be happy to address any questions you may have.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Stackhouse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dr. Jennifer Stackhouse, Ed.D.  
Executive Director, Portland Village School