

February 24, 2021

Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for considering testimony on Senate Bill 743. From the perspective of Metro East Web Academy, a locally managed virtual school in Oregon with roughly 800 students from the Willamette valley region, we understand the purpose of this bill. We participate in discussions with other virtual school leaders regarding this bill and through this collaboration; we currently have no opposition to this bill.

As a virtual charter school, we feel it is important to support and enhance the sponsoring district so that it does not have a negative impact. Line (C) gives a provision to allow the sponsoring district to access the extended ADMw formula in the years of declining enrollment, even if their virtual charter school expands during that same timeframe.

Next year and the entire biennium of 21-23 funding is uncertain and we do not want to overly burden the system. However, our virtual school collation is requesting that we look at HB 2023 to raise the virtual school cap to 7% to offset the extended ADMw cap. We also appreciate the timeframe of only applying to the year after COVID 19. Moving forward after the pandemic, virtual charter schools and brick and mortar districts should have equal access to the extended ADMw formula.

Thank you again for considering this testimony in your discussions.

Kind regards,

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