

Baker Charter Schools
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BAKER CHARTER SCHOOLS

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February 22nd, 2021

Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for considering testimony on Senate Bill 743. From the perspective of Baker Web Academy, one of the larger locally managed virtual schools in Oregon with roughly 2,750 students from all over Oregon, we understand the need for this bill. We were able to participate with other virtual school leaders and sponsor superintendents on meetings leading up to this bill. Through that collaboration, we have no opposition to this bill.

We support line (c) because in many cases the growth of the virtual charter school negatively impacts the funding formula for the sponsor district. No virtual school ever wants to have a negative impact on our sponsor district. Allowing this provision would allow the sponsoring district to access the extended ADMw formula in years of declining enrollment even if their virtual charter school is growing.

In regards to section 3, we understand that the State School Fund will not be able to sustain a massive drop-off in virtual charter school enrollment. 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 group is requesting that we look at two year cap increase to offset the extended ADMw cap as we return to post COVID-19 settings. If the cap is raised, virtual schools will not need to access extended ADMw. We also appreciate the timeframe of only applying to the year after COVID-19, moving forward after the pandemic is over virtual charter schools and brick and mortar districts should all have equal access to the extended ADMw formula.

Thank you again for considering this bill as a reasonable fix during these unprecedented times.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Huld', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Daniel Huld, Ed. D.
Superintendent
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