

Submitter: Kelly Rush
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1552

It is important that as a parent who knows my children but also coming from a profession of Occupational Therapy that children or the parents have choices that fit each one of the children and the unique family situation. Social, mental, physical and intellectual welfare needs to be taken into consideration. My 2 sons joined FCA 3 grades ago—fall of 2019 before the pandemic. Our choice was to pull from public school 2 blocks away, send them to private or home school them. Then I heard of FCA and I decided I wanted more collaboration with teachers vs. being on my own to home school—which I had done in the past with my older two sons. It was a difficult decision. We received our release from the district at that time without any problems. But, I know the timing was a blessing. And, the type of school—parents and special education providers and the child— know what is best especially if the current system is not working. School choice is a game changer and deal breaker for us—almost to the point of moving out of state if we are not able to choose. My husband has served in the Oregon National Guard and been deployed multiple times since 1997. We are still married and we sacrifice for our state, country and our kids. I think that we need to choose what is best in each situation—especially if we have children with special needs because they do not fit the mold. Even children without special needs are special and need to be served in school to fit their own learning style or even to address medical and family needs to keep a family intact. Thank you for your time.