

Dear Representative Bobby Levy,

I am writing today to share why school choice is important to my child's education.

Having the choice to enroll in a virtual public charter school has been an incredible blessing for our family. Our daughter struggles in large class environments and being able to attend online at Oregon Charter Academy has given her the opportunity to still engage with fellow classmates but not be overwhelmed. She has had incredible success with this program and is growing in her independence and learning. While attending Oregon Charter Academy she is also able to participate in her local private school part time while managing her studies independently. Oregon Charter Academy provides wonderful opportunities for class choices as well as activities to participate in. I feel that this is such an important decision for families that should not be taken lightly.

There's never been a time greater than now where parents should be afforded the respect of school choice. Unfortunately, due to Oregon's outdated 3% law where districts are denying families enrollment into virtual public charter schools and their own district programs are full, families are unable to have any virtual options for their children and the respect of school choice has been ripped away.

This law has created an unintentional equity issue in our state because school choice, or enrollment in a virtual public charter school, is based on whether or not you live at an address where enrollment is allowed based on the 3% law. For example, families in Portland Public Schools are able to choose an online charter school, while families in neighboring districts such as Parkrose, Reynolds and Centennial are not.

I am asking you to support a bill during this session that will amend this 10 year old law.

Thank you,

Hope Vavra
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