

Submitter: Roselyne Leon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1552

Testimony about our kids not being able to continue in Charter School
To whom it may concern.

My name is Roselyne Leon. We were living in Idaho prior to moving back to Oregon last November 2021.

While living in Idaho with our two children, the Covid19 pandemic began in early 2020. I am a Registered Nurse with a Master's in Public Health. I knew what this would mean. Our children were going to an in person private Christian School and as news of the pandemic was getting closer, I asked for advice on a public forum concerning their education and what program we could use for homeschool. I was advised Connections Academy right away with high reviews from several people. It is an online public charter school. So we pulled our children out of the previous school and enrolled them in the online charter school.

It was a difficult learning curve to learn how to use the system at first and we saw it was a lot harder than their past school but the teachers kept supporting us and encouraging us. Once we got rolling and the kids started rolling we were amazed at the level of education that was by far superb. They were learning way better and more than in their previous schools. Their grades were not the best the first 3 months until they learned the system better and got used to it, then both our children became straight A students once again. I coached our oldest child and my husband coached our youngest child and both of us parents were amazed at how they were teaching our children! We did not have that experience growing up with a school like this! And Charter Schools are strict! On a live lesson in Math, our son was fooling around too much and the teacher kicked him out of class by deleting his connection. He had to go to his teacher and apologize so he could continue and boy did he learn his lesson! Over all we were loving it!

This school year our older child started 7th grade and our youngest child started 2nd grade. My husband got a very good job in Oregon and we moved back to Oregon after several years out of State. We moved this last November 2021. We were excited to transfer them to Connections Academy here in Oregon. Idaho told us all about what to do.

ORCA here in Oregon helped us with their arms open and we submitted all the paperwork and then we found out about the rule here in Oregon about the 3% cap. We had no idea what that meant. Needless to say, our school district in Harrisburg did not allow us to continue in Connections Academy saying they had an online school themselves and wanted us to go to them. We were flabbergasted! No! We want to continue in Connection Academy! We are in that train for this school year and we would like to finish the school year with them. Meanwhile Connections Academy told us we had to appeal to the State and they closed our account until we were

granted permission. So I submitted an appeal to the State but our local district warned me our appeal would not pass and they had to go to their school. The stress was huge! We were in the middle of moving! Our children had no school for the whole month of December. We were heart broken and stressed out trying to scramble about to all the different educational options our children could have here in Oregon. Finally we found Alsea School District that had an excellent online program for our son in 7th grade and they were able to take us away from Harrisburg. But the program for 2nd grade for our younger child was not working for her. After 2 weeks I had to pull her out of that program and I found a private Christian program that I had done myself as a child and enrolled our little one there and finally she started doing better in this February, this current month after 2 months that she was so abruptly disconnected from her previous school where she was doing so well. For her it was 2 months wasted until she could get back on track. Nerve wrecking for all of us! We still grieve how we were not able to continue in Connections Academy.