

Submitter: Camille Hammond
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1552

To Whom it May Concern: Oregon desperately needs to get rid of the 3% cap districts to allow children to attend online charter schools. This cap was created to appease teachers unions, the same unions that fought to keep schools closed in Oregon for over a year. The Oregon Legislature has

A chance to do something that is in the best interest of the student. Judging by the recent recall in San Fransisco, Even Oregon could be in trouble come election time, because they have failed to put students needs first. Voting yes on this bill would go a long ways to resuming parents trust in the Oregon Legislature. We are tired of our children being last.

This is part of the appeal letter I wrote to The Oregon Department of Education: We received a refusal from Hillsboro School district to release our two boys to attend a state charter school because of this 3% cap. I believe that it is not equitable that my sons be denied an opportunity to attend a state public charter school that has the potential to meet their emotional, social and academic needs because of the arbitrary 3% cap. This was given as the reason for the denial we received from HSD. This 3% cap is strictly protecting school district funds while not putting the student's needs first. I do not feel a financial reason is justification for my sons to not receive the appropriate public education for them. This is an outdated policy that should be changed so that students can be given their best possible chance for graduation and success after high school.

The Oregon Department of Education's website states "The Oregon Department of Education fosters equity and excellence for every learner through collaboration with educators, partners, and communities.

At the Oregon Department of Education, we are guided by the following values: Integrity, Accountability, Excellence

Equity, Our Priorities, Graduating our students college career ready, Closing the Achievement Gap

Teacher and administrator effectiveness

Increasing performance for all schools and districts

A strong, seamless education system from early childhood through higher education Based on what ODE's goals, values and priorities are, I believe my sons should be given the opportunity to attend a charter school of our choice. I have a degree in Elementary Education, have taught in the public school system, and am currently employed as a substitute teacher. In middle school I've observed for many subjects the children are on their chromebooks, following along to google slides. Many of the middle school classes have 30-40 students in them. Students seem to spend time playing games, watching youtube, or emailing their friends. There is little connection being made, with each other or with their teacher. For "remedial" English Language

Arts the students spend their time going through lessons on a chromebook on their own. My child does not test well and would probably qualify for remedial ELA, but this is not the environment he will thrive. In fact, I believe it would kill the joy he has for learning. Math classes at his current middle school have 30-40 kids in them, and I do not believe a personalized approach will be possible in this environment. This year at the public middle school there have been many reports of racism, bullying, fights, etc. My son already suffers from anxiety. Each day is a struggle as he has stomach aches or feels sick before leaving for school. The other options HSD offers are Hillsboro Online academy, a canned, mostly written, curriculum from Florida and no good for a child with dyslexia. The other, Comprehensive Distance Learning, offers no opportunity for in person enrichment. Summit charter offers a hybrid approach of online and in person activities, all taught by a local teacher. But my child can not do this because HSD has decided they want to keep the money from the state. And the legislature is Complicit because they refuse to lift the 3% cap, and refuse to place students first.