

Feb 19, 2022

Re: SB 1552
From: Donna Kreitzberg, Oregon voter

Chair Dembrow and the members of the Senate Education Committee:

I support SB 1552 and encourage you to do everything in your power to get this bill passed.

Oregon students deserve to get the best education possible, customized to fit their needs. Oregon public school students and their parents deserve the RIGHT to choose the form of that schooling, whether it is traditional public schooling or public charter schooling. Please give them that right.

Traditional public schools are not a "one size fits all" solution to Oregon's education failures. For some children traditional public schools work just fine. But for many other children, traditional public schools do not work well at all.

All Oregon students deserve the chance to receive their education in the setting that works best for them, not in the setting pre-determined by where they live or the income level of their parents.

Please think of Oregon's students when you consider SB 1552. Give Oregon students the best opportunity to get a great education: give ALL students the opportunity to choose a virtual public charter school if that is the best fit for them!

Please champion equity by giving all Oregon students access to virtual public charter schools!

Some may oppose SB 1552 claiming that somehow having more Oregon students attend virtual public charter schools will be bad for Oregon. I disagree with their claims:

1. Public charter schools receive much less than traditional public schools for each student that they educate. A public charter school receives only about 50% of the overall funding spent on a student in a public school. The savings is then available to the traditional public school. So, traditional public schools actually benefit financially when there are charters schools.
2. The academic results from public charter schools are as good as or better than those of traditional public schools. So, charter schools do as well for the students but with much fewer dollars than traditional public schools. Maybe if we allowed charter schools to receive the same as the traditional public schools do per student, the results at public charter schools would improve even more!
3. Public charter schools are directly accountable to the people that count: the students and parents! If the public charter school does not meet the standards and expectations of the students and parents, the student may leave and the public charter school may be forced to close.
4. Public charter schools have teachers that are not in the teachers' union. When a teacher is not in the teachers' union the union does not receive all that money from dues. The 3% cap on virtual public charter schools was only put in place to get the teachers' unions to stop fighting to prohibit charter schools each legislative session. Maybe that is why the teachers' unions do not want the 3% cap removed for virtual public charter schools. We need YOU as legislators to care more about the STUDENTS than about the teachers' unions!