

Submitter: Jenny Moser  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1552

Jenny Moser  
Salem, Oregon

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, Members of the Senate Education Committee:  
My name is Jenny Moser. I live in Salem, OR and I am the parent of a virtual charter school student.

I am writing in support of SB 1552 which would remove the 3% enrollment cap on virtual charter schools.

In 2011, the Oregon State Legislature placed a cap of 3% on the number of kids in a school district who can transfer to virtual charter schools. Now more than 10 years later, that number hasn't been adjusted to account for growth. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, more parents are seeking virtual charter school options for their children. School districts around the state are hitting the 3% enrollment cap, denying students access to the school of their choice.

The virtual charter school has been a tremendous blessing for our family. My husband's job requires him to relocate quite often. We move once a year on average. We usually stay in the same city but not within the same school district. Fortunately, since our daughter is enrolled in an online public school, she doesn't have to change schools and she gets to keep building her great connections with her teachers and friends no matter where she lives in the state. She never had to be in between schools or lose any day of school due to weather conditions, transportation problems, pandemics, school bullies, school shootings, etc.

Our daughter can also learn at her own pace. We really appreciate and love the flexibility provided by the virtual charter school. She is an advanced learner and the virtual school setup is perfect for her. She can finish early so she can spend time working on her hobbies which are tinkering, building, and making art projects. She can also join clubs and she has a very healthy social life despite never going into a normal brick-and-mortar school. By being her learning coach, I also get to learn as

she is learning. Our relationship has also improved because I get to be her mentor, her study partner, and her friend, not just her plain mother.

A virtual charter school has been a good fit for our family. Parents should be able to choose the education option that meets their child's individual needs and learning style, but the 3% cap creates a barrier for students around the state who are seeking to enroll in a virtual charter school. Denying students access to this important education option isn't equitable, inclusive or fair.

I urge you to support SB1552 so all Oregon students can attend the school of their choice, regardless of where they live.

Sincerely  
Jenny Moser