

Submitter: Bryan William Hays
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

Dear honorable members of the Education Committee,

I am a parent of children within the Pinehurst school district.

I strongly oppose this bill.

Prior to considering any amendments to this bill, for the sake of due diligence, please spend some time speaking with charter groups who have recently attempted to apply to their local districts for sponsorship. Hear from them about how this process happens in reality, not theoretically according to the law.

While it seems that the law should allow charters to exist in a roughly feasible process, as if there are checks and balances in place to create a healthy application system, the fact is that it is not in any way equitable or healthy. Please hear from the charter groups about what their actual experience is in attempting to do this.

Similarly, it would also seem worth considering and asking of existing charter schools, why it is that so many charter schools in Oregon are barely hanging on by a thread?

There is far, far more about charter school legislation that needs fixing than how oversimplified this bill is.

If we actually claim to care about the education of all students, and we wish to innovate on education outcomes for all students, the area of charter schools has to be given fair and equal opportunities that district schools get. The current process is absent that equality.

Even if this bill is amended to protect existing charter schools and their little slice of the pie, the larger market share for charter school rights will only get the scraps that we are thrown. Meanwhile, the current system gets to act like the great protector of the realm as the children and parents go as voiceless peasants.

Please consider a much, much more full-orbed approach to this legislation.

Parents will choose alternatives no matter what, so it would seem the wisest, to me, that the legislation would hold the current data in hand: That 70% of Oregonians want better options for school choice. The current process for charter schools is lacking so

much in order to properly provide viable and sustainable options for that 'choice.'
That means amongst other things that we are living in a context in which the old ways
of doing things needs to be reassessed in order to meet the current demands.

Many industries have missed the opportunity to innovate in a post-covid world and
are now on the declining side of the bell curve. Please do not see this with a quick fix
lens, but rather a comprehensive and data-driven approach.

Please have conversations with those in the charter world. Please choose an
abundance mentality, instead of scarcity.

Thank you.