

TRACY CRAMER
State Representative
House District 22



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 8, 2023

RE: Testimony Supporting HB 3204

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 3204.

Students who transfer to virtual charter schools are doing so for a reason. Typically, they have already fallen behind in a traditional school setting or have additional challenges they are working to overcome. Speeding up these approval and appeal timelines will ensure bureaucracy doesn't compound these issues.

Students choose to enroll in a virtual charter school because they are disengaged in their local school. Currently a school district then has up to 14 days to accept or reject that student. During that two-week timeframe, they go from being disengaged to potentially lost.

HB 3204 would shorten that timeline from 14 days to 5 days to ensure the least amount of missed school possible for each student. If denied, the family can appeal, which can take up to 30 days under current law. Shorting that to 14 days will reduce missed school and missed learning. Currently, if all these things go wrong, a student can be out of school for nearly a month and a half.

HB 3204 would also ensure that school districts are using the most up-to-date data when approving or denying an application for a virtual charter school. This is data already being collected to determine when the 3.5% enrolment cap has been met. Families should not have to appeal their rejection to find out if the enrollment cap has truly been reached or not. Our students deserve better.

Respectfully submitted into the House record,

Tracy Cramer
State Representative
House District 22