

Submitter: Cynthia Cloutier
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB633

Greetings, Senators. I strongly support SB 633. I was a student at Serendipity a long time ago -- in fact, I graduated only a couple of years after the school opened! Were it not for what was then Serendipity Academy, my high school education would have ended early in my sophomore year. I don't have to tell you how different my future would have been without that diploma. I have remained grateful to the school and to its staff -- Bob, Belinda, Betty, Susan, Hannah -- for all of my (very good) life.

Much about Serendipity has changed over the years; they've come a long way from those rented classrooms in a small, nondescript Catholic church! What hasn't changed is the heart of their mission, which now, as it was then, is to ensure students who, due to a variety of challenges, don't fit neatly into the public school system. To ensure they are given all they need academically, emotionally, and physically not just to survive high school, but to thrive... to feel safe and grounded, to improve in self-governance, and to gain confidence and self-esteem. They have evolved as their students' needs have evolved, and it has been an incredible thing to watch. For more than 40 years, Serendipity has proven its model **works**, and it's time more Oregon students have access to the kind of hope, help, and success! Please vote in favor.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Cloutier