

Submitter: Christine Hood
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: HB3204

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing today to submit support testimony in the passing of House Bill 3204. I come to you from experience in transitioning my daughter to on-line education after our school district failed her in support of her medical issues. She was harassed, staff was rude, many teachers refusing to provide out of class support due to her missing daily class. Finally, the district threatened to turn me and my husband into the state for truancy. That was my final straw, and by that Friday she was out of the district and onto on-line education, and could not be happier. As a parent, I have that choice. The 3% cap is cruel in removing choice of every single parent of every single child in the Oregon education system.

Oregon classrooms are crowded, many with unruly students who distract classmates daily with their behaviors. Teachers with hands tied and no way to fight back the behavior. As a parent, I can fight back by choosing to remove my daughter from a stressed and disruptive environment and place her into an educational environment that is more beneficial to my child. She is self sufficient, responsible, and suffers from medical issues that hinder her daily life. On-line school has given us the ability to address these issues with great success. I wish nothing but the best for those that choose to remain in the public school system. But I want every parent to have the choice to control their child's education and accept that responsibility, not just 3%. The only way to ease the burden of the Oregon classrooms is for parents to climb into the flaws and control what is best for their child/ren. We did it for our child. While I do hope one day to be able to return her to public school with her friends and cohorts, I take solace in the fact that I have a choice.