

Submitter: Sheryl Zimmerer
On Behalf Of: SB 735
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB735

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my support for Oregon House Bill 735, which seeks to exempt certain public charter schools from the abbreviated school day program requirements. This legislation provides a sensible and balanced approach to ensuring equitable education while recognizing the unique circumstances of charter schools.

Under HB 735, public charter schools would be exempt from these requirements if they meet specific, reasonable criteria: the majority of their students are not students with disabilities, the school is not designed specifically to serve students with challenging behaviors or complex medical needs, their regular schedule offers at least 95% of the instructional hours provided by the local district, and individual students are not required to attend fewer hours than their peers without disabilities at the same school. These conditions ensure that exemptions are granted only to schools that can deliver a robust education comparable to traditional public schools, while still protecting the needs of all students.

This bill acknowledges the diversity of educational models in Oregon and supports charter schools in fulfilling their missions without unnecessary regulatory burdens. By focusing on instructional hours and student equity, HB 735 strikes a fair balance that benefits students, families, and educators alike. I urge you to support this practical and student-centered legislation.

Sincerely,
Sheryl Zimmerer
Executive Director
Logos Public Charter School