

03/31/2025

House Committee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB2583

Dear Chairperson Neron and Members of the House Committee on Education

I am honored to provide this written testimony in strong support of House Bill 2583, a valuable piece of legislation that allows virtual public schools that same resources a traditional brick-and-mortar public schools.

We adopted our son through Oregon Foster Care System over 5 years ago. He is wonderful, sweet and bright. He was enrolled in Portland Public Schools for many years and it was a failure of them not meeting his needs. We have enrolled him through Metro East Web Academy (MEWA) and he is thriving. He is able to spend more time on learning and get consistent support from his parents, and amazing staff at MEWA.

This bill represents an opportunity to support virtual public schools and level the playing field compared to brick-and-mortar public schools. HB 2583 allows virtual public charter school to be eligible for grants distributed from Oregon' Student Investment Account.

HB 2583 provides fairness by providing equal access to resources while ensuring funds stay in Oregon's community-run schools. All students should be supported fairly. Virtual public schools provide the same education as a brick and mortar but charter schools are more tailored to the child's individual needs. And as a result, these children thrive. In general, all schools are not getting the money they need. HB 2583 allows these virtual public schools the same access to this grant program as other public schools.

I strongly urge you to support House Bill 2583. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Annear

Portland, OR