

Submitter: Debbie Steere
On Behalf Of: Clackamas Web Academy
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2583

Chair, Vice Chairs, and Esteemed Members of the Oregon House Education Committee,

My name is Debbie Steere, and I am a dedicated teacher at Clackamas Web Academy (CWA), a public charter school sponsored by the North Clackamas School District. I am writing to you today with a deep sense of urgency and support for House Bill 2583.

As a teacher in this unique learning environment, I've seen firsthand the transformative impact of resources provided through the High School Success Grant. While we've achieved remarkable outcomes, our access to the Student Investment Account (SIA) remains severely restricted, hindering our ability to fully support our students.

Let me share some of the tangible results: Between 2019 and 2024, our graduation rate climbed from 78% to 88%, a testament to the hard work of both students and staff. Our students are not just achieving academically; they are becoming engaged, contributing members of society.

In the classroom, I see the direct impact of these resources. Our students outperform state averages on OSAS assessments in Science and Language Arts, and they exceed national averages on the PSAT. This success isn't by chance. It's the result of our commitment to quality instruction, provided by fully licensed and highly qualified teachers.

I understand the concerns raised about online charter schools and the use of SIA funds. However, I can assure you that at CWA, every dollar is invested with purpose and accountability. Investments in technology, college and technical courses, and diverse learning options directly align with the goals of SIA grants, and they are essential for creating a supportive and enriching learning environment for our students.

HB2583 is not about simply allocating funds; it's about ensuring that every student, regardless of their learning environment, has access to the resources they need to thrive. I implore you to support this bill and help us provide our students with the equitable access to state funding they deserve.

Thank you for your dedication to the education of Oregon's students.

Sincerely,
Debbie Steere
Teacher, Clackamas Web Academy