



OREGON COALITION OF COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

To: House Committee on Education

From: Iris Maria Chavez, on behalf of the Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools

Date: April 21, 2025

Re: SB 735A, Support

I write to you on behalf of the Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools, our state's charter support organization and are a coalition of community-based, public charter schools representing all corners of our state. We represent approximately 26,000 public school students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade, operating in all regions of the state.

We strongly support SB 735A, the effort to provide public charter schools with unique school calendars the ability to comply with SB 819 (2023). Senator Gelser Blouin has been a thoughtful partner in discussions regarding the implementation of SB 819 (2023) and we appreciate her work to ensure that unique circumstances are considered for this important work.

SB 735A will allow public charter schools that meet specific criteria the ability to be exempt from the specifics of the "abbreviated school day" policy within SB 819 (2023.) Specifically, Oregon has a small number of public charter schools operating school calendars that are longer in days (weeks and/or months) than their host district, in keeping with their instructional hours requirements, these charter schools operate fewer hours per day putting them out of alignment with the goals and intent of SB 819 (2023). This legislation, SB 735A, allows these charter schools the ability to remain in compliance given their unique school calendar.

Please join us in supporting SB 735A and Senator Gelser Blouin's thoughtful updates to this work.