



*Oregon Connections Academy Parent Association (ORCAPA) represents a group comprised of Connections Academy's online schooling families and friends.*

21 March 2013

Members of the House Education Committee,

As the Oregon Connections Academy Parents Association (ORCAPA), we represent the roughly 3400 students, and families, enrolled in Oregon Connections Academy (ORCA); Oregon's largest online charter school. We are support HB2875, which would provide that an expiring charter remain in effect for a public charter school until a new charter is negotiated following approval of renewal of the charter.

We understand firsthand the stress families experience when they have their students enrolled in a charter school that is meeting their student's educational needs and the charter is up for renewal. It can be a months-long process that could result in the charter school not receiving their renewal due to paperwork or missed deadlines. We appreciate the stress relief to students and families this simple fix would create.

More importantly, we appreciate the continuity in educational services this provides students. Students in a charter school fitting their educational needs can be confident that their education can continue at that charter school if they choose to stay. The choice to remain in a charter school belongs to the student and the family, not whether a charter met a deadline.

We also appreciate this allows administrators and charter schools the time to finalize a good charter agreement and not be rushed by a deadline if extra attention is needed for the process.

Thank you for your consideration of HB2875. We ask for your "yes" vote.

Sincerely,

ORCAPA Board Members:

*Anne Marie Gurney, Jessica Cousineau, Preston Baxter, Mark Scarborough,  
Paula Foster, Lori Conklin*