

Dear Chairman Hass, Vice-Chair Knopp and Senator Beyer, Senator Kruse and Senator Roblan,

My 5th grade daughter and 7th grade son attend a small public school district in Southwest Portland as an out of district, tuition paying family. We chose this school because they have small class sizes and provide an excellent education and we were happy to go through a screening process when we applied, understanding that not everyone is admitted. As I understand it, this bill will prohibit the school administration from seeking any information about an out of district student who wishes to attend the school other than their name, address and grade level.

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2747.

This bill removes decision making authority from locally elected school boards and school administrators about what is best for the students who are transferring in or out from one district to another. That seems absurd given that is what we elected or hired them to do.

This bill will leave the small school district we opt to be part of, which is wedged between the huge Portland Public and the larger Lake Oswego districts, scrambling to meet the needs of essentially unknown kids who join the school from outside the District. We were screened and have no issues with this. Had we not been admitted, we would have sought out other options, like everyone else. This bill will undoubtedly cause small school districts that are unable to readily absorb students with a wide variety of requirements to stop admitting out of District students altogether. This is bad for families seeking options other than their home District, like us. Especially in this educational & economic climate, schools don't need fewer choices, they need more choices.

Our school benefits from families like us that opt to apply, and if accepted, provide diversity and funding not supplied sufficiently by the local neighborhood. I feel it would be a detriment to the overall functional capabilities of the school, who has very limited resources for special needs children even within their district, to be forced to take any student from outside the District that might place additional fiscal pressure on the school, and be unable to adequately, much less thoroughly, serve these children.

I do not know whom this bill is designed to help or what problem it is designed to fix, but it certainly makes things costlier for the school and interferes with their ability to deliver what is a unique small district alternative among the larger districts of the Portland metro area.

Please vote no on HB 2747.

Best regards,
Aysia Wright