

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

As a resident of Riverdale School District I oppose HB 2747. Our school district is small with only 300 children in the grade school and 250 in the high school. Unlike bigger school districts like Portland Public Schools or Beaverton School District we don't have the programs in place for every conceivable issue a child may need to achieve success at our school. HB 2747 eliminates virtually all control a receiving school district like Riverdale would have over transfer students, open enrollment students and tuition students. Not only is this bad for our small school district but it is bad for students who would not have the programs available to them at larger school districts.

As a mother of a child on the Autism Spectrum, I appreciate Riverdale's small size. My child is the type of kid who is a target for bullies. I feel he is protected at Riverdale due to its small size and the protective nature of the community. But if HB 2747 is passed, our school district would be required to admit any and all children with disciplinary problems as long as the incoming student hasn't been expelled within the year. I think school districts deserve to know more than that about the incoming student(s). If the incoming student(s) have been disciplinary problems at their home school, we need to know. We don't have a school psychologist on our staff to deal with students with disciplinary issues. I fear for my child if children with disciplinary issues are admitted and we don't have the personnel to deal with the student.

A small school district needs to be able to plan its budget and allocate resources. HB 2747 essentially ties the hands of the school board when they don't know which students they will be serving. It makes planning a nightmare for small school districts such as ours.

If HB 2747 were to pass, I'm worried our school district may just "close its borders" and decide not to take any out of district students. That would be a shame because I think the community is vastly enhanced by the out of district families. It would be too bad for the families who have researched school choices and decided on Riverdale as their best option.

Jill Petty
Attorney at Law
1001 SW Fifth Ave., Ste. 1520
Portland, OR 97204
Tel. 503-656-0637
FAX 503-636-4522