

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

I am writing as a parent of a 2nd and a 4th grade student in SW Portland, and as a candidate for my local school board, to urge you to oppose HB 2747.

HB 2747 applies to all forms of transfers, including open enrollment, inter-district transfers and tuition. The inter-district transfer system has, for decades, been based on the idea of equal information for both sending and receiving district. This has helped ensure that the needs of a potential transfer student are fully understood by all and can be met by the receiving district.

This bill would essentially put a blindfold on the receiving district. Accepting transfer students for whom the program might not exist to meet their needs is especially risky for small schools. As a result, you will see districts around this state shut down their borders to admitting students from outside their district, further limiting the choices of parents in seeking the right educational option for their children.

I believe open enrollment is a good idea. However, there are many who believe that open enrollment has failed since so many districts have opted out - this bill will accelerate that trend. I understand from Jim Green and Morgan Allen that the OSBA has tried to work with the sponsor of HB 2747 on several amendments, to no avail.

This bill tinkers with the choices of local school Districts who have voted for their school boards to make decisions about transfer policy. As a school board candidate myself, I am concerned that HB 2747 would limit local control over decisions that affect our schools and our students.

As policy makers, I believe you should apply a criteria of 'do no harm' as you consider policy. I have not heard any testimony to date of students who have been harmed by the current system. In fact, the current system works because it requires a conversation between both sending and receiving districts to determine what is best for each student.

You have, however, heard from many individuals about the harm this bill would do to student choice and to the ability of school districts to serve the needs of students.

I urge you to oppose HB 2747.

Sincerely,

Michelle Janke

11382 SW Aventine Circus

Portland, OR 97219