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**From:** Chana Cox <chana.cox@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2013 9:21 AM  
**To:** Eric Sorenson; Rep Komp; Rep Frederick; Rep Sprenger; Sen Edwards C; Sen Girod; Sen Monroe  
**Subject:** HB 2153A

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Please vote no on HB 2153A. This bill would limit charter schools to 3% of the school age population and the approval for the establishment of charter schools will be in the hands of the district superintendent. Since charter schools compete with traditional public schools, this is tantamount to eliminating charters. "Traditional" public schools in this state will protect their monopoly. HB 2152A is like requiring that oil companies in the North Sea or North Dakota get permission from the OPEC cartel to begin drilling.

Not all charter schools are superior, but in Oregon some of our most successful districts have far more than 3% of the students in Charter Schools. Corbett is the highest testing district in the state and one of the highest in the nation despite the fact that Corbett draws on a population which is diverse both racially and economically. Charter schools are small and they have the flexibility to experiment and we need experimentation in a field where we have gone so wrong. In state after state significant progress has been made by making a very significant proportion of schools charter schools. Michigan, New York, Louisiana, Florida comes to mind. In inner cities charters like KIPP Academy or Harlem Success Academy have succeeded in producing educated graduates who can compete with graduates with middle class suburbs. Because of the enormous demand for that education by parents who have been denied a quality education for the children is overwhelming, those charters are over-subscribed and admission can only be by lottery.

Finally, under existing legislation, charters in Oregon educate their students on far less per student than the traditional schools. That leaves more funding per student for the traditional schools. Increasing the number of charters in the state is the fiscally responsible policy.

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