



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

6 February 2014

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 support HB 4007. This bill would relieve families from the uncertainty they currently face regarding the residency and enrollment status of their students.

The decision to request enrollment in a non-local school district is often a difficult one for families to make, whether for travel, medical, educational, social or other reasons. The process of obtaining all the required permissions can be time-consuming, and while administrative decisions are being processed families are left "in limbo" regarding the enrollment status of their student. This uncertainty exacts an emotional toll on both the students and their families. The passage of HB 4007 would relieve families of going through this arduous process multiple times, for no reason other than an arbitrary time limit. The added stress of going through re-application is unnecessary, and serves only to disrupt an otherwise positive scenario for those students who have finally found an education situation that works well for them.

For the sake of families across our state who already struggle enough when it comes to making education choices for their students, please vote YES to relieve them from this burdensome and unnecessary hurdle.

Sincerely,

ORCAPA Board Members:

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