

Good afternoon committee members,

I am Dr. Daniel Huld and I am currently the Director of Baker Charter Schools. Our schools are two non-profit locally managed charter options available to all students in Oregon. Currently we have approximately 600 students in our virtual public charter school Baker Web Academy and 180 in Baker Early College. As the Director for these two schools I oversee all of the operations while reporting to our school district and local charter board monthly in Baker City.

In regards to HB 3044 I would like to offer some perspective on the value of public charter schools having facilities outside of the sponsor district. This fall we launched a cooperative effort to open our first exploratory Drop In Center in Portland. On our journey we worked with ODE and David Douglas school district to ensure compliance with all current laws.

Our purpose was to find a safe space to provide assessment services to our students. Our main goal was to increase our ability to administer the SBAC, OAKS and work samples to our Portland area students. Additionally the facility provides a space to meet with our staff and parents as needed.

Drop in centers are not linked to our marketing goals, rather they are to allow us to support students in region. As an important note the drop in center has not increased our enrollment in David Douglas School District in fact we have fewer students in that district now than we did this fall.

At no point do we intend to offer classes to our students or full time instruction from any location outside of Baker School District. This was clearly communicated to ODE and the district.

Allowing public charter schools to lease or purchase facilities outside the sponsor districts provides the freedom to improve our services to students using a blended learning model. I would ask the committee to vote no on HB 3044. Thank you

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All the best,

Daniel Huld, Ed. D.  
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