

I support SB955

Hello, my name is Olivia Wengert and I'm a mom of an 8th grader who is currently in a stressful dilemma regarding the future of his education. My son, Clayton has been in the Sherwood School District for the last 8 years attending Sherwood Charter School. He has been there since the 1st grade. We live in rural Sherwood and our address and phone are both Sherwood, but technically we are in Newberg School district. The Sherwood school bus drives directly in front of our house as well.

Everything we do is in Sherwood. We work, play sports, attend church and own a business. Clayton loves his community, school and friends. He has been losing sleep at night due to the anxiety caused by not knowing his education future and what will happen to him. We would like the opportunity for Clayton to continue in his education with his current classmates, friends, community and playing sports with the teammates and coaches he's known for his whole life.

We support SB955 because we believe it will provide fairness and consistency to the currently confusing HB2747, which changed the law in 2013 to not allow districts to give priority to a student already attending the district school, if not living in the district. This law change was made after we had invested 6 years into the Sherwood school district and 20% of the money the state gives the charter school has gone to the district. We have been seeking a solution to this problem by having conversations with the Sherwood School district, but their hands are tied to help us because of HB2747.

We are hoping that SB955 will be a permanent solution to allow kids that have been in a Charter School for 4 years or more, graduate from the highest grade and who live out of district, the chance to continue to go to school in the district they've spent their entire lives attending.

We ask that you please support SB955 so that other students in Claytons same predicament will not have go through the stress and anxiety that he has had to endure. Supporting SB955 will allow the district to give these students the opportunity stay with their current teachers, friends, coaches and community.

Thank you for scheduling a hearing for SB955 and giving us the opportunity to tell you why this bill is so important to us.