

**Written Testimony to House Education Committee on HB 4091
February 8, 2016**

Madame Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 4091. I am the parent of two virtual school students, 3rd grade and Kindergarten. My oldest child has been enrolled in Oregon Virtual Academy since 2012. Virtual school is a wonderful option for our family because my husband is a welder who occasionally needs to travel for work. Virtual school allows us to “take school on the road”. Our Kindergarten son has grown up watching his older sister’s lessons, so he is reading and testing ahead of other children in his grade level. Our 3rd grade daughter reads at a 6th grade level, and loves applying geometry to her quilting projects.

Virtual public school allows us school choice, in a sense, of our education tax dollars. Virtual school’s flexible schedule has given our children time for extracurricular activities such as karate, dance, and living history events like our local museum’s Pioneer Days.

HB 4091 seems like an effort by opponents to limit our schools. All the virtual school families I talk to say that their kids are thriving in a virtual public school setting. Every child learns differently, but all need access to what learning method helps him or her thrive academically.

I urge you to oppose HB 4091. While on the surface this bill looks harmless, I fear that it’s an attempt by opponents of virtual public schools to limit our access to schools that work for our kids. Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written testimony.

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