

**TESTIMONY**



**BEFORE THE:** House Education Committee  
**REGARDING:** HB 4091  
**BY:** Jim Green, Deputy Executive Director  
**DATE:** February 9, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Green", written over a horizontal line.

The Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) supports HB 4091 as a tool to allow the Oregon Department of Education to study virtual charter schools in Oregon to provide quality information to policy makers at the state and local level regarding virtual charter schools.

OSBA supports the use and creation of virtual charter schools as a valuable tool that can be used by school districts to address unique learning needs of a diverse student population across Oregon.

As an attorney that has represented school districts in their review of virtual charter school applications and sponsorship of virtual charter schools, I believe any additional information that can help school districts understand the operation and complexities of virtual charter schools will provide benefits to school boards and the students served by virtual charter schools.

If conducted properly and given adequate resources, a study of the nature envisioned in HB 4091 should provide valuable insight into issues that school boards should be reviewing when determining whether to sponsor a virtual charter school. A study should provide information to school boards to ensure students being served by a virtual charter school are receiving a quality public education.

Providing educational services to students through a virtual charter school has provided some unique challenges and has required some "learning as we go" especially with our students who need additional educational services in their educational programs, such as students with disabilities and students who do not speak English as their first language. HB 4091 should provide information to school boards and operators of virtual charter schools of best practices in meeting the needs of all students. The sharing of best practices and understanding the unique operational issues surrounding virtual charter schools will only enhance and strengthen the quality of virtual charter schools and the education of students served by virtual charter schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 4091.