

Madam Chairman and members of the committee thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Seraina Aguayo, I am currently a learning coach and parent of 6th grade boys enrolled in Oregon Virtual Academy. This is our sixth year with ORVA. We currently reside in Clackamas. I am here today to testify in opposition to HB 4091.

We chose ORVA as our education alternative for a few reasons. My daughter had experienced some bullying in her brick and mortar public school as well as other hostile environment situations. We also noticed a decline in her academics shortly after enrolling her in a brick and mortar public school after she was educated in our home for two years. We had attributed her academic decline partially to her environment, and also to the fact that there were around 30 - 35 students per teacher classrooms.

The children have thrived in the ORVA program. We have been especially impressed with the structure and curriculum. Our teachers are easily accessible and have been extremely helpful with progress and accountability. We have enjoyed the numerous opportunities to meet with them and other parents and students through the many outings every month.

That being said, I'm very concerned about HB 4091. While on the surface it looks harmless, I fear that it is an attempt by opponents of school choice to limit our access to schools and programs.

All the parents I talk to say that their students are thriving in a virtual public school setting. I don't understand why giving kids access to a public school option that best suits their needs is a threat to some.

I ask that you please oppose this bill.

Respectfully,

Seraina Aguayo

ORVA/ Parent and Learning Coach