

**Testimony before the House Education Committee of the Oregon Legislature
concerning House Bill 4119 on open enrollment.**

**By Anna-Maria Hartner, student at West Linn High School
on February 08, 2016.**

Chair Doherty and members of the House Education Committee:

For the record my name is Anna-Maria Hartner and I am a senior at West Linn High School. I am here today to speak in favor of House Bill 4119 to maintain Oregon's policy concerning open enrollment between public school districts.

Open enrollment was intended as an educational policy to empower parents to make choices on behalf of their children. But there has also been an unintended effect in that it has empowered students to make choices on behalf of themselves.

School districts tend to offer varying programs, especially within the realm of academics and extracurriculars. With open enrollment, we have the opportunity to make choices regarding our specific needs — from a strong theatre department, to emphasis on athletics, to a dedicated music program. Much in the way that we have the opportunity to choose which universities we attend, we should also have the opportunity to choose a secondary education program based on our unique needs, interests, and learning styles.

Out of all school policies, open enrollment has benefited us the most. We would appreciate your support.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.