

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

By Isabella Fenner, student at West Linn High School, on February 10, 2016.

Chair Doherty and members of the House of Education Committee:

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

When I was in the eighth grade I was faced with a very difficult decision. In order to further my education at the pace that suited me, I would have to leave the school district that I grew up in. This was because Canby School District did not offer the advanced math and science courses that I hoped to take in high school. Unfortunately, this meant that I had to start over in a new school, and make new friends. My parents left the decision completely up to me, and I struggled to pick the perfect school. Even at a young age I recognized the importance of choosing a school that suited my personal education goals and learning style. I even entertained the idea of private school. In the end, I chose to use open enrollment to transfer from Canby to West Linn High School at the beginning of my freshman year. I feel that this decision has benefitted my education tremendously, because I am provided the resources and opportunities to pursue my dream of going into the medical field. By allowing open enrollment to sunset, we might deny hundreds, if not thousands, of students the opportunity to pursue an education that lines up with the career path they plan to take.

I ask that you pass House Bill 4119. Thank you, and I'm happy to respond to any questions.