



To: House Committee on Education  
From: Richard Donovan, Oregon School Boards Association  
Re: House Bill 2720  
Date: February 22, 2017

Chair Doherty and members of the House Committee on Education:

The Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) supports HB 2720 as a tool to allow the Oregon Department of Education to study virtual charter schools in order to provide quality information to policy makers at the state and local level.

OSBA supports the appropriate creation and use of virtual charter schools. Virtual charter schools represent a potentially valuable tool that can be used by school districts to address unique learning needs of a diverse student population across Oregon. And any information that can help school districts better understand the best practices in working with virtual charter schools will provide benefits to school districts and students.

Providing education services to students through a virtual charter school has, in the past, been a complex undertaking. It has presented unique challenges and has led to the need to “learn as we go,” especially in relation to students with specific needs, including students with disabilities and students who do not speak English as a first language.

In the current budget climate school districts anticipate that the 2017-19 biennial allocation to the State School Fund will require drastic cuts. The \$100,000 allocation in the text of the bill, both as drafted and amended by the -3 amendments, is concerning. However, the sharing of best practices and unique operational issues, as well as the opportunity to examine areas of potential efficiency, surrounding virtual charter schools will hopefully enhance and strengthen the quality of virtual charter schools and the education of virtual charter school students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 2720.

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