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Testimony Presented to the Senate Education Committee  
In Support of SB 209  
March 7, 2017

Good afternoon Chair Roblan and members of the Senate Education Committee. I am Marshall Coba representing the Oregon Virtual Academy and our newest school, Insight School of Oregon Painted Hills, in support of SB 209.

ORVA is a public virtual charter school managed by an independent Board of Directors offering online curriculum to more than 2,450 K-12 students through our school in North Bend. ORVA has been educating students since 2008 and has a very supportive and loyal student body and family organization. The Insight School is located in the Mitchell School District and also has an independent Board of Directors. The school is in the second year of a five year agreement with Mitchell and currently has 350 students in grades 7-12.

SB 209 is a simple bill. SB 209 removes a sunset provision to allow our employment practice for administrators to remain in place as it has for the past nine years. Of course all of our administrators hold Oregon School Administrators Certification and live in Oregon. This bill does not change any current law, does not expand any current capabilities of our administrators nor does it change the relationship with our sponsoring district. It simply removes the sunset and allows us to continue to employ administrators and educate students as we have for the past nine years.

We believe this employment relationship has given our administrators the utmost professional flexibility to do their jobs. The access for the ORVA and Insight administrators to the professional staff at K12, Inc. leads to additional support in academic, professional development, special education, human resources and other key school services in real time settings. Creative and proven online educational practices from around the country can be adopted in North Bend and Mitchell in a very timely and efficient manner. Working with the K12, Inc. regional and national administrative leadership facilitates that best practices can be implemented promptly. While the administrative practices are available system wide, they are individualized to each school.

SB 209 only impacts administrators who do not have any teaching responsibilities and both the executive officer of the sponsor and the public charter school governing body approve employment by the for-profit entity. Employment decisions can be done on a case by case basis and by job categories.

We encourage the Senate Education Committee to support SB 209 and continue our employment practice from the inception of our schools and to give us the certainty to plan for the upcoming school years.

Thank you for your consideration.