

March 6, 2017

Dear Members of Legislature,

Hello. Our daughter, Emma Mueller, is in eighth grade and attends Baker Web Academy. This is Emma's first year enrolled in an online school. For the first eight years of her education, she was a student of the Morrow County school district in Oregon and attended the Irrigon elementary schools and middle school. I am writing to you today to advocate for online students to be given the right to play sports at their local schools.

Emma has always been an ambitious student and has been involved with various school and extracurricular activities. Having interests outside of her academics, has made her a very well rounded person. Sports has been an integral part of these interests. She has a true passion for volleyball and has also played basketball for the last several years. This love for sports did not suddenly disappear when she went from a brick and mortar school to Baker Web Academy. In fact, her passion continues to grow as she grows as a person. We strongly believe that Emma and all other online students NEED to have the same opportunities in sports as any other child has. These online kids have the same sport related ambitions, drive, competitiveness, dreams, and goals that all kids have. Why wouldn't anyone want to support the desire of a young person to want to pursue any kind of physical activity that would positively impact their physical, social, and mental well being? All kids deserve the opportunity to play sports at their local high schools. If this right is taken away, these online students will be stripped of the opportunity to play the sports they love. Why on earth would we want to take away something that impacts lives in so many ways? And furthermore, why would anyone want to teach inequality to our children?

It is my plea to you, that you allow online school students the same rights as brick and mortar students. Allow them to play sports at their local schools too. If you take away this right, you take away the opportunity for Emma to be physically active, strips her from her dreams and aspirations as an athlete, and denies her the right to do something she desires with all of her heart!

Sincerely,

Amy Mueller