

March 7, 2017

TO: Senate Education Committee

FROM: Iris Maria Chavez, Coalition of Community Based Charter Schools

Testimony on SB 208

As members of a community of schools that work to ensure students have access to high quality schooling options, we want to express support of SB 206 and SB 536.

Oregon recognizes that for students to be well rounded individuals we need to provide them opportunities to engage in content beyond math and reading. Students who participate in activities outside of the classroom are also more engaged in their academic work. That is why students who are in home school settings are allowed access to the interscholastic opportunities provided by schools within the student's home district.

As policymakers and advocates we need to be mindful of the changing landscape of schooling in our state. Increasingly, students are choosing options that best fit their needs and as they do so, we need to ensure that they have access to all the supports and services that help them be a well-rounded student. Providing charter school students with access to the interscholastic activities provided in their home district would go a long way to keeping students engaged and helping them be well-rounded individuals.

Oregon's public charter schools are doing great work educating students, public charter schools across the state are helping students make impressive gains in math, reading, science and other academic areas. Providing students with access to interscholastic activities, like their home schooled peers, is an equitable way to ensure we are preparing students to be successful long-term.

The Coalition of Oregon Community Based Charter Schools supports SB 208 and SB 536. We look forward to working with you and our partners to advance this legislation.