



Baker Charter Schools  
2725 7<sup>th</sup> St  
Baker City, OR 97814  
<http://www.bakercharters.org>  
541-524-2300

April 10, 2017

Re: HB 3413

Dear House Education Committee Members,

I am writing you today as the Director of Baker Charter Schools and the President of Oregon Digital Leaders Coalition. Baker Charter Schools is sponsored by Baker School District in Eastern Oregon and operates a virtual charter schools with 1150 students currently and an early college with 270 students. We have 5 office locations outside of our main office in Baker City. These offices have become key to the success of our students and staff. ODLCL is a coalition of virtual leaders in Oregon that partner together on professional development, operations, and legislative matters.

In both roles I have a deep concern about the language change requested in HB 3413. Back in the 2014/2015 session when this law was established it was agreed by all that notification was a sufficient method rather than permission. This allows charters to have facilities to meet their unique needs and lets the district know what is happening. At the time we established there is no justification liability wise. Each of my centers has additional liability insurance coverage and every student/staff member/patrons that uses the space falls under our liability and oversight. Therefore I must conclude there must be other reasons to justify the change in language.

I believe that if charter schools in Oregon have the needs and means to provide facilities for their students to meet their unique needs they should be able to do so without permission from districts. In our case we have invested valuable public funds in our facilities and committed to long-term leases. The proposed change would be catastrophic to our operations. These centers are the reason some of our struggling students graduate, give us a place to network as a staff, and provide a safe/quiet location for testing. Our landlords, utility providers, janitorial staff, and other vendors are depending on us fulfilling our lease and contractual obligations. Therefore, should the committee move forward with this language change I am requesting that all facilities opened under the old language be grandfathered in permanently.

All the Best,

Daniel Huld, Ed. D.  
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