



**Date:** June 6, 2017

**To:** Education Subcommittee of Ways and Means, Co-chairs Smith Warner and Monroe and Members

**From:** Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations and Vice Chair, ORVED

**RE:** *HB 2720 [Virtual Schools Study]*

I am writing to support Rep. McLain's bill to study the impact of virtual education in Oregon's online public schools. As Vice Chair of ORVED, a public, non-profit virtual program that focuses primarily on serving public school students who wish to take classes online while remaining residents of their traditional public schools, I was honored to participate on the work group that developed this legislative proposal.

We support the study because it is important to consider the best way to support learning for all students, whether they are live or virtual. When barriers to their success exist, we need to know that. Just as school districts have multiple reporting and accountability expectations to address each year, virtual schools also ought to have a level of scrutiny appropriate to their enterprises, especially considering that they operate on public tax resources.

We do not see the study as burdensome, only helpful, to our understanding of how best to serve the small percentage of students who elect to attend school fully or partially online. Though you heard from two opponents of the bill on June 5, we elected to provide our comments of support in writing, so as not to take up subcommittee time.

Please make this testimony part of your record, and note that we would respectfully ask that you schedule HB 2720 for a work session and pass it on to the full Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for your consideration.