

Dear Chairman Roblan and members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Ed Osborne and I live here in Salem. I've been involved in both the government and private educational systems as a student, coach, teacher and administrator. The purpose for this letter is to state my support for SB 437 and the -1 Amendment which would limit how much money goes into ESA accounts. This way, public schools should have the same or more money for each student remaining in their classrooms even as some students leave to find better educational opportunities.

I believe Education Savings Accounts help give opportunity for many children to find better learning environments. It would help parents who are responsible for their children's education to educate them at home (Many are very capable of doing a good job.) or work with others if they only We're given some financial encouragement to do so. This would help alleviate the overcrowding in many classrooms and possibly get more parents involved in their children's education.

I understand that they could use part or all of an ESA account each year for a mix of services, and if money is left over, then it can be rolled over into future grades. I especially like the opportunity they would have to use the remaining funds after graduating from high school to attend any college in Oregon.

I disagree with those who say that the legislature should only spend education money in our public school system. To me, if we are going to use taxpayer money to help educate Oregon students, then the money should be available for students to use wherever it can benefit them the most, whether public school, private, tutors, homeschooling – wherever they can learn the best.

Sincerely,

Ed Osborne