



Testimony Presented to the Senate Education Committee
In Support of SB 1520
February 7, 2018

Good afternoon Chair Roblan and members of the Senate Education Committee. I am Marshall Coba representing the Oregon Virtual Academy and Insight School of Oregon Painted Hills in support of SB 1520.

ORVA is a public virtual charter school managed by an independent board of directors offering online curriculum to 2,040 students through our school in North Bend. ORVA has been educating students since 2008 and has a very supportive and loyal student body and family organization. The Insight school is located in the Mitchell School District and also has an independent Board of Directors. The school is in the third year of a five year agreement with Mitchell and currently has 500 students in grades 7-12.

SB 1520 is a simple bill. SB 1520 removes a sunset provision to allow our employment practice for administrators to remain in place as it has for the past nine years. This bill does not change any current law, does not expand any current capabilities of our administrators nor does it change the relationship with our sponsoring district. This has been our employment practice since both schools were founded and has never led to an issue between the school board or the sponsoring district. Currently ORVA has 2 administrators potentially affected by this bill and Insight has 3 administrators who will be impacted.

We believe this employment relationship allows us to continue to offer our students the most innovative and timely educational curriculum and has given our administrators professional capabilities to do their jobs. The access for the ORVA and Insight administrators to the professional staff at K12, Inc. leads to additional support in academic, professional development, special education, human resources and other key school services in real time settings. Creative and proven online educational practices from around the country can be adopted in North Bend and Mitchell in a very timely and efficient manner. Working with the K12 regional and national administrative leadership facilitates that best practices can be implemented as soon as they are confirmed in other areas, and, when appropriate, they can be exported to schools across the country. While the best practices are available system wide, they are individualized to each school.

SB 1520 only impacts employees who are an administrator who do not have any teaching responsibilities; and both the executive officer of the sponsor and the public charter school governing body must approve employment by the for-profit entity. The executive officer or governing body may choose to grant approval under this subparagraph. This can even be done on a case by case basis.

We encourage the Senate Education Committee to support SB 1520 and simply continue our employment practice from the inception of our school.

Thank you for your consideration.