



CONFEDERATION OF OREGON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

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TO: Senate Committee on Education – February 7, 2018

FR: Morgan Allen, Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA)

RE: Senate Bill 1521

Chair Roblan and members of the Senate Education Committee:

On behalf of COSA I would like to offer comments in favor of Senate Bill 1521 with the -1 amendment.

Senate Bill 1521 proposes to move the sunset date for Oregon's open enrollment law from to July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2020. This extension would allow open enrollment to proceed through the 2019-20 school year. Without this change, 2018-19 will be the last school year that districts can accept students through this transfer pathway. And as a reminder, the Legislature extended the sunset two years during the 2016 Session.

I want to put on the record that the bill does not impact brick and mortar or virtual charter school enrollment and transfer procedures. Nor does it make any changes to Oregon's interdistrict transfer laws.

Since open enrollment first passed in 2011, there have been major changes to the procedures and pathways for students to transfer between districts. In addition to the creation of open enrollment, the interdistrict transfer laws have been changed significantly and there have been debates about other transfer pathways like students paying tuition.

While there will never be 100% agreement between all stakeholders on what a student transfer system should look like, my conversations lead me to conclude that there is much more that stakeholders agree on, especially on the point that having multiple transfer systems and policies is confusing for students and families and complicated for school districts to administer.

Our hope at COSA is that we use this sunset extension to convene stakeholders during the interim and try to find an agreement that will end the complexities and confusion by having both open enrollment and interdistrict transfer options available to districts. I consistently hear from school district personnel that they would prefer one transfer system statewide so that everyone is considering student transfers under the same guidelines, timelines and rules.

We have also asked for the -1 amendment to clarify the Legislative intent that 2019-20 school year will be the final year of open enrollment unless the Legislature takes further action on the matter.

Mr. Chair, I know you expressed interest in helping to convene these conversations. Our members are ready to help assist in any way possible.