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SED Exhibits

HB 4036 A Testimony

To whom it may concern:

I had the pleasure of teaching an 8th-grade student in Forest Grove who had a great desire to learn at her pace and level. Baker Web Academy allowed her to do just that. She was able to read and take notes at her pace without holding up others in their learning or spend additional time after school working with individual teachers. Additionally, she was able to improve her reading skills independently. Not only did this improve her vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency, but it gave her confidence and ignited her love for reading again.

Not only was she able to learn valuable skills such as 21st-century skills, accountability, and independent learning through BWA, she was also able to maintain her responsibilities of owning horses. She learned the valuable lessons of prioritizing, organizing, and balancing her schedule. In between her studies and caring for horses, she would also volunteer and socialize with her friends. All of this was possible in her single school year with BWA.

I tell you about this student and my first-hand experience of a happy family that was pleased with the education and support they were receiving because of this bill. This is the bill that would have made it possible for this student to not only make gains in her education, but also in her passions and dreams of being an equestrian. She was not able to continue her personalized education with BWA. The family saw that the education at her local high school with the additional support outside of school was adequate enough in order for her to pursue a career as an equestrian after high school.

It saddens me to think that families like this have to compromise their choice of education for interscholastic activities. This is not providing equity and equality for our students. I would imagine my former student would have been able to join a private equestrian team, however, circumstances unknown, it did not seem it was an option. Financial situations should not hinder a student's passion and drive. Our students have the right to a choice of their education as well as interscholastic activities.

It is my firm belief that if my former students were still at BWA today, working at the pace that she was, as well as on the equestrian team at her local high school, she was have been reading on-level and succeeding in every subject because of it.

As stated on the website, there is a minimal fiscal impact as well as revenue impact. I genuinely do not see any loses. I only see gains of engaged, passionate, and well-rounded students.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Susan Wagstaff

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Mrs. Susan Wagstaff
Reading Specialist, Elementary Teacher