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Testimony Presented to the House Rules Committee  
In Support of SB 1520-A  
March 1, 2018

Good afternoon Chair Williamson and members of the House Rules Committee. I am Marshall Coba representing the Oregon Virtual Academy and Insight School of Oregon Painted Hills in support of SB 1520-A.

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. 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.

Sections 28 and 29 of SB 1520-A remove 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. This only affects two administrators at ORVA and Insight has three administrators.

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. These administrators are Oregon certified and live in the state, although one will be moving here as a recent hire.

Innovative and proven online educational practices from around the country can be adopted at ORVA and Insight Schools 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. While the best practices are available system wide, they are individualized to each school. This is part of the innovation in education that charter schools were founded upon.

SB 1520-A is very limited as it only impacts virtual charter school administrators who:

- are an administrator and 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, and,
- the executive officer or governing body may choose to grant approval under this subparagraph, and,
- this can even be done on a case by case basis.

We encourage the House Rules Committee to support SB 1520-A. This is not new law and does not change anything that we have done for the past nine years.

Thank you for your consideration.