

Testimony of Khara Meija to the Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session of 2020

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Khara Meija, I'm from Keizer . I'm an online school parent and I'm testifying to today to urge you to support permanently increasing the cap on enrollment in online schools.

Several years ago, I found myself in a situation shared by thousands of Oregon parents. My son was struggling and falling behind in school, and I didn't know what to do. After searching for an education option that would meet his needs, I found a full-time online public school.

There are a variety of reasons why parents choose an online, virtual school for their students. I originally thought that I would use online school simply to help my son catch up, but I have since realized that the challenges he was experiencing in a traditional classroom setting are now alleviated. The flexibility of online education has allowed him to learn at his own pace. For my son, an online public school has been a very positive, life-changing experience.

I'm grateful that I can choose the education option that works best for my son. During this time of COVID-19, and the uncertainty around education in brick-and-mortar schools this fall, parents need education options. I urge you to permanently increase the enrollment cap on online public schools so that more Oregon families can utilize this important education option.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Khara Meija
Keizer, Oregon