

Note: Please use discretion with your personal information in written testimony (i.e., do not add personal information you do not want the public to see). All meeting materials, including your name and any personal information contained in the submitted documents, are posted to the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) and are accessible to all major search engines, including Google, Bing, and Yahoo.

I am a public school educator writing in strong opposition to LC 76, the bill to raise the cap on student attendance in virtual charter schools. I have worked in three different school districts over 12 years in Oregon and every district has the same challenge of not having the resources to best serve students. With the current uncertainty facing our education system, we need all allocated funds to stay in the public system and not be redirected to charter programs. These programs are not held to the same standards of learning, equity and accountability. We cannot afford to lift the virtual school enrollment cap beyond the 3% level. We will have even more need for services for students in public schools as we transition into the fall this coming school year. Many more students will be presenting symptoms of trauma and will be in need of support, for every half- percentage of the increased cap, districts will lose \$55.5 million. What this will do our communities could be devastating for our future societal and economic health. It is unethical to transfer tax-payer dollars to for-profit companies, especially those that are not required to adhere to public education regulations created to protect the most vulnerable and marginalized populations and to serve the best interests of all students. There is also evidence that these online-charter schools are not performing well according to this audit by the Secretary of State: <https://sos.oregon.gov/audits/Documents/2017-30.pdf>

Oregon's school children deserve better. Our communities deserve better. Rather than redirect a huge sum of money away from the state's 197 school districts and to a handful of virtual schools, let's invest in making sure our public education system has the supports it needs to serve all students equitably, safely, and well.

**PLEASE VOTE NO ON LC 76.**

-Megan Christopher  
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