

From: [forrest.Cooper](#)
To: [J1SS Exhibits](#)
Subject: LC 76 testimony virtual charter cap
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 2:08:40 PM

Dear committee members,

I am a teacher on special assignment in the Fern Ridge school district, and expect to be coordinating our distance learning programs this next school year. I have been a public school teacher for 28 years, and spent three years serving on the board of a local charter school.

In the past few weeks I have been researching the 3% cap on virtual charter school students leaving our local district, and spent time in a webinar last week with Kate Pattison from ODE, who was explaining the cap and the appeal process.

In my research I have discovered anecdotally that the actual percentage of students who leave to attend a virtual charter is between about 4 to 5% of overall students. Schools are already looking at making cuts and having to spend more money due to the ongoing pandemic. Raising the cap to 8%, thereby asking schools to release another 3-5% of their students and the corresponding dollars, will result in more cuts to our system, more dollars going to private, out of state programs, and further erosion of our in-state system.

Further, there is no need to raise the cap, because parents already have an easy venue to appeal decisions that would prevent them from leaving a district. Historically, appeals for these decisions have been successful about 50% of the time. Students must be released for a variety of reasons, including health and safety, bullying, chronic absence issues, and schools not following established policy.

The majority of students who attend virtual charter schools tend to be white, affluent students with available technology infrastructure and every advantage. Taking money away from public schools at this time and giving it to virtual charter schools is the opposite of equity in our state, and would brand our legislature as the tool of affluent special interests, instead of a body serving the people of Oregon.

I am asking you, on behalf of Oregon's children, to not do further harm to our public schools. Please vote no on LC 76.

Thank you for your attention.

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