



March 25, 2019

House Committee on Education  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today in opposition to HB2516, legislation that would restrict how online public schools can advertise and promote their schools.

I am the parent of three online public school students, as well as the President of the Oregon Virtual Public Schools Alliance (OVPSA), a coalition of parents who have joined together to advocate for online public education because we believe strongly in the value of protecting full-time online public education for Oregon kids.

Like my own family, thousands of Oregon families have found success for their children in online public schools. Every student and family involved in an online public school chooses it for a variety of reasons. Those reasons range from accelerated or delayed learning to schedule-heavy extra-curricular activities, from physical or learning disabilities to the need to escape bullying. Online schools give kids who need an alternative to the traditional classroom a place to get a quality education.

Just as families choose online public schools for different reasons, they also learn about these schools in a variety of ways – from a friend or family member, by doing online research, through direct mail or by hearing an ad on the radio or seeing one on TV.

HB2516 would limit how online schools are able to notify families about their school. It would place restrictions on how online schools are able to advertise and promote their schools. This hardly seems just or reasonable.

Online schools are a vital part of our public school system, and they are a good fit for students who need an alternative to the traditional brick and mortar public school classroom. Please don't deprive Oregon families of the right to know about *all* available public education options. Please oppose HB2516.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Thibodeaux".

Debbie Thibodeaux  
President

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