

Good afternoon Chair Doherty and members of the committee. My name is Joy Lunneborg, I live in Wood Village. Thank you for allowing me to be present today and share my testimony.

I am the parent of 2 children, both of whom are students in a virtual public school.

My son was evaluated as having a receptive speech delay at 2 years of age. He could also speak full sentences when he wanted and could spell 3, 4 and 5 letter words at that same age. With speech therapy and an individualized learning plan set forth by his father and I, his communication skills improved. He could read books by age 4 and do 1st grade level math by age 5.

My daughter started speaking at 7 months old, and could read sight words by age 2. Her conversational skills were high above what was expected for her age. Currently she reads books designed for 3rd and 4th grade children with ease and is doing 2nd grade level language arts curriculum. Math is more of a struggle for her but she has developed proficiency with individualized attention.

In a brick and mortar school, my children wouldn't get the same attention and individualized education as they do with Baker Web Academy. They have a teacher they can ask for help from anytime, and have the opportunity to flex their school curriculum to fit their needs, to focus on their weak spots and improve their abilities in those areas.

I urge you to oppose HB2516 which would place restrictions on how online schools would be allowed to advertise and promote their schools. Parents have the right to make an informed decision on the school their children use, that can only happen when information is allowed to be freely shared. Virtual public school is a state approved, valid and viable alternative to brick and mortar public schools. Please don't restrict their rights because they deliver education in a different way.

Chair Doherty and members of the committee, thank you again for your time and allowing the opportunity for me to share my testimony.