



# Luckiamute Valley Charter Schools

*Cultivating Excellence ~ Developing Leaders*

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Co-chairs Roblan and Smith-Warner and members of the committee,

My name is Victoria Avery and I am the Board Chair of Luckiamute Valley Charter School and we are a member of the Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools. We are a K-8 brick and mortar charter school serving roughly 200 students on two campuses, the K-5 Bridgeport School and the 6-8 Pedee Middle School. We were founded in response to community needs in 2001, after many rural schools closed due to district funding challenges. At that time, many of the students in our community were facing exceptionally long bus rides of up to 2 1/2 hours each day. We continue to foster a sense of community involvement and support that was lost during the consolidation.

Over the past 18 years we have developed a strong partnership and open dialog with the Dallas School District. We provide services to students with the same needs as those attending traditional as do traditional public schools such as funding curriculum upgrades, offering professional development for our staff, providing mental health support and nutrition, and offering instruction in art, science and music.

We have a strong commitment to providing excellent educational opportunities while recognizing many of our students come to us with challenges of income, mental health and nutrition. Over 50% of our student population are eligible for free and reduced lunches. It is through the charter school model that we are able to meet these needs in new and innovative ways.

It is critical that the nearly 40,000 charter school students have access to the proposed Student Success funds to support their needs and not exacerbate the disparity of opportunity for our students. We appreciate the committee's acknowledgment that charter schools play an important role in the education of Oregon's students and urge the continued intent to include them in the proposed funding.

Thank you.

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