

TO: Joint Committee on Student Success
FROM: *Jorge Luis Terrazas-Medina*
RE: HB 2019 -6 Amendment
DATE: April 11, 2019

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

My name is Jorge Luis Terrazas-Medina and I am a graduate of the Redmond Proficiency Academy and am currently a student at Willamette University [with an interest in physics].

As the Joint Committee on Student Success works on the Student Success Act, which would direct about \$2 billion to our state's public school students, I am here to share with you why it's important that the state be sure to include all of our public school students in this investment.

In 2018 I graduated as Valedictorian from the Redmond Proficiency Academy. Redmond Proficiency Academy is a public charter school in Central Oregon serving students in grades 6 through 12. RPA is a unique place where, as students, we are in charge of our own educational experience, we are given the chance to explore our academic and career interests, and supported by a wonderful group of educators to achieve our successes. Being given the opportunity to attend this charter school has transformed my future and, I hope, that of my siblings who are currently enrolled at RPA.

I chose RPA because it gave me freedom of my own education. I stayed at RPA for most of my education because it let me grow at my own pace and I was never held back. My experience at RPA has given me a unique perspective on education itself

My family and I chose the Redmond Proficiency Academy because it's a public school that could provide me with opportunities to explore and excel that worked for me.

I, along with the other students at Redmond Proficiency Academy, are part of Oregon's public schools.

We are public school students who are seeking opportunities to excel, opportunities that prepare us for a future that engages and inspires us, done within environments that work for us.

We are Oregon public school students.

I urge you to ensure that public charter school students are included in the new investments made with the School Improvement Account in HB 2019.

Thank you for your support of students like me throughout Oregon.