

Dear Senators,  
My name is Rae Parlier and I have lived in Sheridan, Oregon for 45 years.  
I wish to voice my support for SB 240.

I am the grandparent of two students who are enrolled in a full-time virtual public charter school, Frontier Charter Academy, based in Gervais, Oregon.

My daughter was fortunate to enroll her 12 and 9 year-old in this online public program before the 'door got shut' in their local school district of Newberg, Oregon. As I have watched, it works well because the student is accountable to the online teacher not the parent. Both children are thriving at FCA.

The pandemic ushered in an era of a new form of telecommunication. Some now work more hours from home. Music students have access to professional teaching online and technological advances have improved audio and real time parties can play together. Churches have had to be resourceful and offer video services which will most likely continue even as congregations gather, because of the inclusiveness this allows those who can no longer physically attend.

Education must assume leadership and not be bound by tradition and status quo. Public education should be proud of their online schools that are providing full offerings and have satisfied patrons.

I urge the Department of Education to see the benefit to Oregon students who for physical, social or economic reasons may require this alternative to in-person schooling.

Sincerely,  
Rae Parlier  
Sheridan, OR