

Good afternoon,

I have been an online public charter school teacher for two years, and also taught in brick and mortar public schools for years before joining the online education community.

I am not sure where the 3% cap originated. But I have an assumption that the decision came about considering funding and that every child that chooses an alternate to the traditional public school setting, takes money away from the brick and mortar schools. I appreciate the equity and approach an in-person setting can provide for students, many things can not be supplemented online that can be achieved in person. I do not want to see funding for brick and mortar schools to go down, especially after the year we've had. Despite the change in enrollment.

Traditional schools are not a one-size fits all system, though. I do appreciate that the online setting provides a great option for many families (be them online public charters or provided from the home-school district). We have students with autism that are better able to control their environment in an online setting, but parents become the para-educator, or parents must hire help for assignments. Some students whose families travel, or are part of a traveling sports team or theatre company find online education great for flexibility and maintains their access quality, consistent education, as they travel. Again, I'm not sure how the 3% cap is determined, but there is certainly a population of students that derive more benefit from an online setting than in a traditional setting.

Some, are going to thrive more in an in-person setting and are going to flounder in an online setting.

Some of this has to do with resources the home has to provide the student. Stable internet is important. A level of independence or an adult there to help students is important for success. Students must be held accountable for "showing up" and doing the work.

Our online charter provides for an abundance of time to collaborate with families and design curriculum, less touch/live time with students, but curriculum is much easier to tailor (for the students who choose to share their voices and opinions.) Students have access to one on one meetings with teachers to walk through assignments with them, if the video instructions for the assignment wasn't enough. Students get more specific feedback on computerized assignments because they are faster to work with than a pen and paper. (Though many traditional schools are using digitized assignments now too)

I consider myself neutral because I don't know all of the considerations in this bill. While I think students should be able to find the education that fits them best, I also know it's about money and resources. I am passionate about public education and equal access to education for ALL students. I am concerned that public schools will lose funding, while they already don't have enough.

Whether home districts begin to provide an online model for these students who would benefit OR money is found from another pot to maintain budgets at brick and mortar schools while allowing more students to choose online public charters, I don't want money taken from the public schools.

Thank you for your time. I hope this was somewhat helpful in informing your decision.