

April 21, 2021

Dear Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing to you today as a parent at Paisley Distance Learning Program adamantly in favor SB 240. Today there are roughly 22,000 students from all over Oregon enrolled in one of the 20 virtual charter schools in Oregon. Each student or parent made that choice for their family. Yet many more students are being denied this opportunity through the current 3% cap. Prior to COVID-19, virtual school enrollment was nearing the 3% level in many areas. Oregon needs a long-range plan for access to quality virtual education and these concepts provide options for parents for years to come.

We chose Paisley Distance Learning Program because we wanted the flexibility to spend time together as a family and offer an enriched learning experience for our daughter. The early childhood years of life pass by so quickly, and we don't want to miss this special time together, as I am a stay-at-home mom, and my husband works remotely from home as well.

Paisley Distance Learning Program has built a reputation as a trusted virtual charter school over its 11 years in operation. They have a unique approach to online education that uses a mix of in-person/live and online instruction. Teachers normally visit students in their homes every two weeks, and offer multiple field trips/activities, and during COVID have seamlessly adapted to meeting virtually, along with having online field trips and other interactive activities. Individualized education is the hallmark of Paisley DLP. Each student has an individualized Educational Plan to guide their learning and educational process. No two students are doing the exact same plan or path as they move through the curriculum toward mastery.

Paisley Distance Learning Program has demonstrated its quality by consistently maintaining a small enrollment at 140 K-8th students and an ever evolving waitlist of over 200 more. Families value the small class size and close knit school community in this unique virtual learning program. The virtual school enrollment also benefits the home district in Paisley, Oregon, an isolated, rural community that serves less than 70 students K-12.

Families in Oregon have a long history of being able to choose the best educational environment for their children. For years, families have chosen Paisley Distance Learning Program because they felt that was best for their family. I will continue to support bills that raise or erase the virtual charter school's 3% cap. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gina Cornelius

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