

I oppose HB 2954.

If Oregon legislators (and the lobbyists guiding them) truly want to address equity within the education system, wanting all Oregonians to have equitable access to the public services to which they have a right, they would significantly raise, or abolish, the current 3% cap on charter public school enrollment. Parents would NEVER choose to leave their local schools if they were producing the best educational results in their children. Our economy, including our educational system, thrives on choice. For example, cell phone manufacturers continue to make better phones because they know that consumers have many choices, so they have to be competitive or eventually go out of business. Nancy Pearcey has said, "Competition is always a good thing. It forces us to do our best. A monopoly renders people complacent and satisfied with mediocrity." Each school needs to take a close look at what their students are achieving in academics (math, reading, writing, etc.). After defining their individual weaknesses, they should determine how to build up those who are struggling academically, without lowering the standards for all in the name of equity. ALL Oregonians deserve choice and excellence in education, and it can happen, but not by passing bills like HB 2954.