



Frontier Charter Academy

Dr. Todd Schweitzer
Executive Director

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Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Todd Schweitzer. I am a co-founder and Executive Director of Frontier Charter Academy. We are a small public online non-profit charter school operating in our 6th year and sponsored by the Gervais School District. Thank you for your consideration of HB 3204 and for the opportunity for me to share the importance of removing the burden of the 3% cap appeal process for the families.

Frontier Charter Academy had approximately 11 families appeal the 3% resident district denials in the last two years. I spoke to most, if not all of these families on the phone and heard their frustrations with the appeals process. I spoke to many other families that were initially denied due to the 3% rule who called me to ask what options they had. When I explained the appeals process, many of them stated they did not have the energy to pursue the appeals option, or they could not keep their child out of school any longer. These parents truly had a government created barrier placed in front of them while they sought to place their child in the school they believed as parents, was the best option for their child's education as well as mental and physical well-being.

Children's best interest should always be our priority as government officials when making laws and rules regarding their safety and education. This should never be a partisan issue, but a child's education issue, which I hope we can all agree is extremely important.

HB 3204 helps remove this appeals process barrier by streamlining the procedure and putting the administrative burden on the school, school district, and Oregon Department of Education instead of the family. It does not remove the appeals process itself.

Thank you for your consideration and hearing this important issue to many families in our state.

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