



March 30, 2023

Chair Dembrow, members of the Senate Committee on Education,

The Oregon Education Association represents over 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state, from pre-k through our community colleges. Our members are teachers, bus drivers, custodians, teacher assistants, nutrition specialists, community college faculty and staff, and more.

OEA supports SB 1066.

Virtual and online charter schools have been a long-time component of our education system, and despite poor standards and quality metrics, have gone relatively unexamined for years. A fact made more shocking considering virtual schools receive about 80% of a student's ADMw while offering a service significantly cheaper than a brick-and-mortar school would.

In fact, last year the Secretary of State's audit division explicitly called out this historic lack of oversight in their [K-12 Education Systemic Risk Report](#). In it they state that a key goal of Oregon – with regard to its education system – should be:

[To] Monitor and support ODE's efforts to improve inadequate performance measurement of alternative and online schools, and adopt statutes that hold public district and charter online schools, particularly statewide and regional online schools, to stronger standards.

For a first hand account of just how poor the oversight and outcomes of virtual charter schools are, please look at [this testimony from an educator on SB 1552 \(2022\)](#).

SB 1066 does two critical things that will start setting Oregon up for long term success in its relationship with virtual charter schools:

1. Create a taskforce with the purposes of studying the standards, accessibility and efficacy of Oregon's virtual charter schools. And,
2. Ensure that there is a fair, open and competitive process for RFPs to be filed and considered for virtual charter school contracts.

These are two basic steps that will put Oregon on the path to better understand and improve the virtual charter school system in the state; and ensure a more equitable and accountable education for our students.

Please pass SB 1066 with a do-pass recommendation.