

Submitter: Michelle Bratlie
On Behalf Of: My Family
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: HB3204

Thank you, Education Committee Chair and the members of the committee, for the opportunity to hear my voice in the support for House Bill 3204 A.

My name is Michelle Bratlie and I live in Pendleton Oregon. I am the parent of children who has use the virtual public school system in the previous years. I was very glad for this option as this is what we needed at the time for my son. My son was being treated unfairly in the current brick and mortar school system as his disability made it hard on him. The teachers were NOT supportive to his needs and antagonized the situation. Which made me very upset as well. These people are adults and should know better. Having the virtual school available for my son to attend and to have him thrive online better than in person school was awesome. This option should be available and supported just the same as brick-and-mortar schooling. The virtual school was super supportive and wonderful to work with. They were very understanding and that is all we needed. My son did not have to change a thing about himself. He was accepted. There are many reasons for a family to need a virtual classroom setting and we families should be able, along with supported by our government, to have the choice of where our children go to school. Our children need to be educated and have the best education that is available to them. If that means virtual, then it should be available. Virtual public schools are proven, established programs that have state-certified teachers and curriculum. They did a wonderful job for my children.

Please pass House Bill 3204 A so more families have access to a virtual public-school option.

thank you, committee for the opportunity to testify.

Michelle Bratlie and family