



May 1, 2023
Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Education
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of HB3204 A

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB3204 A. My name is Tricia Powell. I live in Roseburg. I'm the parent of a virtual public charter school student and the President of the Oregon Virtual Public Schools Alliance, a coalition of parents who have joined together to advocate for our education choice. On behalf families across Oregon enrolled in virtual public charter schools and those seeking to enroll, I urge you to pass HB3204 A. This legislation makes administrative changes to the 3% enrollment cap on virtual public charter schools.

In 2011, the Oregon State Legislature placed a cap of 3% on the number of kids in a school district that can transfer to virtual public charter schools. As more families are seeking enrollment in virtual schools, school districts across the state are hitting the 3% cap and denying students enrollment in the school of their choice.

Currently, there is not a uniform process for when school districts submit their student enrollment count or how they calculate their enrollment. Since this process determines if a district has hit the 3% enrollment cap and ultimately decides if students in a district are eligible to enroll in a virtual public charter school, the process needs to be consistent across all school districts. While we would like to see the enrollment cap raised or removed, the administrative changes in HB3204 A related to count dates, appeal notifications and students who are currently enrolled in a virtual public charter school but move to a capped district, are an important first step in leveling the playing field to ensure fairness for families.

I urge you to pass HB3204 A so more families have access to a virtual public charter school option.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tricia F. Powell".

Tricia Powell
President

PO Box 1652, Lake Oswego OR 97035
866.961.3731
info@oregonvirtualschools.org