

Submitter: Donna Bleiler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB4161

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 4161.

I have made an extensive comparison of this bill with IP5 and IP6, and what this bill adds to the initiative is common sense to the implementation of those initiatives. IP5 starts with the premise that no student has an assigned school and all students/parents go through the "choice" process, but this may be unintended in 4.a.. HB 4161 starts with the premise that a student's place of resident is the assigned school, and parents have choice a option to transfer.

This bill gives detail requiring school districts to participate in open enrollment, but may apply for a waiver if open enrollment is demonstrated to cause an adverse impact to the school district based on funding loss for support services and prevents delivering quality education to resident students. Participating school districts must set a standard for the number of students they will admit and may base it by school and grade level. The bill sets out prohibitions for encouraging and discouraging a transfer, which IP5 is silent on both.

I encourage you to pass HB 4161, and let the voters decide if they want it as a constitutional amendment. I do not see any conflicts, and if there are any the 2025 session can resolve those before it is implemented for the 2025-2026 school year.