



Baker Charter Schools
2725 7th St
Baker City, OR 97814
<http://www.bakercharters.org>
541-524-2300

March 6, 17

Re: HB 2720

Dear House Education Committee Members,

Rep Margaret Doherty, Chair
Rep. Diego Hernandez, Vice-Chair
Rep. Carl Wilson, Vice Chair
Rep. Paul Evans
Rep. Susan McLain
Rep. Julie Parrish
Rep. Janeen Sollman
Rep. Sherrie Sprenger
Rep. A. Richard Vial

As the president of Oregon Digital Leaders Coalition and Director of Baker Charter School, I have a mix of reservations and support for HB 2720. I appreciate Representative McClain's efforts over the last year to have a joint conversation with virtual school leaders in the development of her bill. My goal in participating was to do my best to ensure the bill would bring about new information and awareness about virtual schools in Oregon. Virtual schools in Oregon are a complicated issue that involves many layers. A study to explore those layers is something we are not opposed to.

What I am cautious and opposed to is another effort to study virtual schools using traditional measures such as test scores and graduation rates. ODE already did a comparative report last session on virtual schools using the data available through the Oregon Report Card. If these traditional measures are considered Baker Web Academy and ODLC opposes the bill. We do not feel it will benefit the system, nor be worth the \$100,000 requested for the study. These measures do not fully capture what is happening in virtual schools in Oregon.

Baker Web Academy and ODLC are supportive of efforts to understand virtual schools in Oregon. Virtual schools are an important and vital component of a complete education system in Oregon. Moving forward our hope to continue to partner with legislative members in understanding and supporting these critically important educational options.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel Huld, Ed. D.
Director
Baker Charter Schools
President
Oregon Digital Leaders Coalition
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