

Chuck Bennett

Confederation of Oregon School Administrators

Testimony on SBs 536 and 208

Chair Roblan and Committee members, thank you for taking the time to read my testimony regarding these two bills. I am not sure which you will choose to be the vehicle to deal with issues raised by this problem. I first want to tell you that COSA agrees with the amendments that have been proposed by OSAA, charter school representatives and our organization and members. Establishing some controls on this and particularly a fair plan of reimbursement to school districts offering athletics to all students in their boundaries is a reasonable solution in most cases.

I'm testifying on one where it is not the case. I also would suggest there are a handful of similarly individual cases statewide that need to be teased out to determine a course for them.

In the case I am sharing, the Ontario School District, the issue is simply that the State of Oregon has established a state sponsored charter high school inside their district over the objections of the district and to the detriment of its students. I have attached testimony from Superintendent Nicole Albisu to the State Board of Education explaining the impact creating the charter would have on their district. I would especially call you attention to the graphic impact statement that shows the cost of adding a high school, administration, teaching staff, building and support personnel that duplicates the existing single high school in the district. In fact, the district at one time reviewed adding another high school and found that it created so much duplication without adding an educational advantage that they have maintained their single high school system.

The problem with the bills under consideration is that they further intrude on the local systems educational strategy and philosophy not to mention budget and would force the district to not only lose students but also be required to go beyond the current legal requirements that the district take care of the charter's special education programs but now include its extracurricular program as well.

I hope you will consider this very singular case and add an **amendment to the bill that excludes districts and charters where the charter is state sponsored** from this program until protocols for state involvement in local district services is resolved.