



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

The minority report would have expanded the number of students who could go into a virtual charter school. Currently the cap is at 3% per district and it would have moved it to 4%. This small change was something the Supermajority was not amenable to. Instead of working across the aisle to pass good legislation, once again party loyalty was preferred by our Democrat Colleagues. While I support what the bill is attempting to do, I could not support the minority report because of my below mentioned position on this session.

On top of this, the Constitution of the State of Oregon clearly states that “The deliberations of each house, of committees of each house or joint committees and of committees of the whole, shall be open...” This provision was put in place to ensure accountability and transparency to the people of the state that their Legislature was working in their best interest. The virtual format that is being used does not provide for an honest, open, and transparent discussion on the matters of this state.

We are seeing just how discriminatory these virtual sessions can be! The Majority Party has created a system that if you cannot afford internet you cannot be a part of the discussions. This “Pay to Play” approach is NOT the Oregon way. Between this and the heartbreaking examples of the elder and economically depressed members in our society struggling and getting frustrated over their challenges navigating this virtual environment, it cannot honestly be said that we are doing the peoples work.

The “People’s Work” should be considered an essential service and there for accessible in person. Because the people are still being denied their constitutional right to participate and lobby their legislature in an open manner, and because there was a better option that was voted down, I voted no.