

Senators,

My name is Chad Auer and I serve as the principal of Colorado Digital Academy. Our school is home to over 450 students across the state. I wanted to express my concerns regarding SB 052.

To begin, the bill expands state bureaucracy and regulation at the expense of local school district autonomy to enter into agreements and arrangements that serve their students and the needs of the district. Local control is clearly a Colorado core value and this bill is in direct opposition to this value.

Currently districts can work, individually or with multiple districts, to authorize online programs. Senate Bill 52 would set up an additional layer of regulation, where the State Department of Education would establish standards to be met by authorizing districts or multi-districts. Adding layers of bureaucracy is rarely a sustainable or reasonable solution.

This 'certifying the authorizers' approach puts decision making control in the hands of the State Department of Education, rather than with the Districts. To be clear, my students deserve less bureaucracy and state mandates, not more.

I would prefer an approach that focuses on education and training for authorizers on best practices, rather than a formal certification.

I believe in making sure that all Colorado students receive a high quality education, and have alternatives including online programs. Senate Bill 52 is not the best approach to achieving the highest quality online learning delivery.

In closing, I would offer to participate in dialogue about the issues embedded in this bill and how they impact my students. That being said, this bill is flawed and I urge the Committee to vote no.

Respectfully,

Chad Auer
Weld County
Elementary Principal

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