



Making public schools great for every child

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Mark Desetti
House Committee on Education
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Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on House Bill 2713.

We believe that this is a well-crafted bill which will provide access to rigorous curriculum offerings that might be sought by only a few students in a school district. We believe it would most often apply to rural school districts that do not have the capacity to offer as varied a course selection as larger school districts.

To that end, we support the intent of House Bill 2713.

We do, however, believe that the provisions of this bill should not be allowed to excuse a school district from offering the pre-college curriculum in a brick-and-mortar setting whenever possible. Some students will do well in a virtual setting; others do well in the give and take of a class attended by others. Virtual education is appropriate for those who would thrive in such an environment but it is not appropriate for all.

We would suggest that it might be better to make this bill track the language you already passed regarding access to advanced placement courses using virtual learning. In that way, you do not inadvertently create a situation under which a school district simply decides to drop a course or courses and push students into virtual classes.

Students now have the opportunity to attend virtual schools. We would urge the Committee to also consider protecting those students who prefer face-to-face classroom instruction.