

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Education
State Capitol

Subject: Support for HB 3444– Increased Funding for Public Charters

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3444, which would authorize increased funding for Oregon's public charter schools, ensuring they receive 95% of the per-pupil student funding allocated to traditional public schools. This bill is a critical step toward equity in education and would provide thousands of Oregon school students with the resources they need (and deserve!) to thrive.

Public charter schools serve a diverse population, including students who may not fit within the traditional education model. Many of these schools emphasize innovative learning approaches and specialized curricula that help students reach their full potential. However, despite serving public school students, charter schools have historically been funded at lower rates, putting them at a disadvantage when it comes to hiring teachers, providing student support services, and maintaining facilities.

By increasing funding to 95% of the standard per-pupil allocation, HB 3444 would move the needle forward in helping to level the playing field and ensure that students attending charter schools have access to the same opportunities as their peers. This additional funding would directly support classroom instruction and essential student services.

As a charter school principal and parent of a former charter school student, I have seen firsthand the impact that charter schools can have in fostering creativity, academic success, and a strong sense of community. Despite having some of the best state assessment scores, our teachers and staff are all underpaid as compared to peers at traditional public schools. Our students eat lunch that they bring from home in their classroom, as our facility is tiny as compared to neighborhood schools, and we have to pay fair market value rent for it. Their playground is our drive-through parking lot. I urge you to pass this bill and support fair funding for all public school students, regardless of the type of school they attend.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to Oregon's students and look forward to seeing this bill move forward.

Sincerely,

Shouka Rezvani
shouka@lemondeimmersion.org
Principal
Le Monde French Immersion Public Charter School

