

Submitter: Laura Dole
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

We are writing this letter to ask that you support house bill 3444, which would provide much needed funding to Oregon Charter Schools.

When it came time to enroll our Autistic son in school, it was clear he would struggle at a school with a conventional education model. As you may know there are limited resources and protections for children with disabilities at private schools, which got us looking closer at public charter schools. Ultimately, we chose to enroll our son at Springwater Environmental Sciences School, where he would spend more time outdoors in a quieter, less restrictive environment than he would at his neighborhood school. Springwater has helped him grow as a student and make positive changes that would not have been possible at a traditional elementary school. Unfortunately, many parents (like us) have to make sacrifices for our children to attend Springwater. There is no lunch program, no before or after school program, and parents are asked to pay if their child needs to ride the bus. Also, the school is in much needed renovations and upgrades that would have already been completed with proper funding. We can see how this would deter many families from considering the option to enroll their child here.

Our hope is that if HB 3444 passes, that Springwater and all Oregon charter schools are made more accessible, by providing the same resources for students as neighborhood schools.

Sincerely,

Proud Springwater parents