

Submitter: Lyndsey Johannesen  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

Lyndsey Johannesen  
Parent and Volunteer  
Springwater Environmental Sciences School  
12920 Joys Drive  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
sands1127@hotmail.com  
503-970-1317  
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Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,  
I am writing in support of HB 3444, a critical bill for charter schools like Springwater Environmental Sciences School. Our school serves 200 students, offering hands-on learning in STEM, environmental sciences, and outdoor education, all within small class sizes and a supportive community. Despite our success, we face a significant funding gap.

We receive 80% of the state funding per student, with our sponsoring district retaining 20%, leaving us with a \$400,000 shortfall annually. We've requested that the district increase the pass-through to 85%, but they have repeatedly denied our request. As charter schools cannot participate in bond measures, we miss out on funding for necessary facility repairs and staff retention.

One example of the school's impact is Kasen, my son and a Springwater student, who thrived despite challenges like ADHD and dyslexia. With the support of the staff, small classes, and hands-on learning, Kasen gained the confidence to perform at grade level by 7th grade and will now be ready for high school. This is the type of success we want to continue offering to all our students.

HB 3444, which increases the pass-through to 95%, would allow the school to plan for needed improvements and safety upgrades, ensuring that we can continue to serve Oregon City families effectively. This bill is a game-changer for us.

Our charter school serves the same students as the Oregon City School District, and we believe it's important to recognize that charter schools are public schools too. We need your support to ensure we can keep providing innovative educational opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lyndsey Johannesen  
Parent and Volunteer  
Springwater Environmental Sciences School