

Submitter: Lyndsey Binns
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444
House Committee On Education
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the Committee:

As a parent of two Oregon public charter school students, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. HB 3444 will fix a deep disparity currently happening in Oregon schools: that Oregon public charter school students are essentially funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students. Public charter school students are public school students, and it's past time to fund their education fairly.

Almost every public charter school parent has a story as to why a public charter school became the right fit for their child. Many started out in traditional public schools, but couldn't receive the education they deserved, often due to learning challenges that required specialized attention beyond what a public school classroom could provide, or physical, developmental, or mental health challenges that public schools simply couldn't, or wouldn't, accommodate for.

My eldest child is painfully quiet and shy and would get lost in the large class sizes of our assigned public school. She is thriving in the smaller community at her charter school.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. Many buildings are old and in need of upgrades, students can't access transportation services, food security programs are limited, and schools lack essential school supplies and mental health resources.

My child's specific school is at risk of closing due to finances. After 20 years they finally purchased a permanent home, a huge milestone and something everyone was really excited about. But this big gap in funding that is needing to be bridged, plus having the expense of a mortgage that public schools don't have to worry about, is leading to financial problems to the point staff are having to take furlough days. Our children and teachers deserve better!

By passing HB 3444, you can fix this ongoing disparity and provide fair funding for

public charter school students who deeply need it.

Please vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,
Lyndsey Binns