

Submitter: Kerry Mandulak  
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 an Oregon public charter school student, 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.

I chose City View Charter because of its Expeditionary Learning model. My child has ADHD and learns in richer and deeper ways when he's engaged in meaningful work that isn't necessarily at a school desk all day. City View has extraordinary leadership and teachers that are fully committed to the mission of the school and the learning model, and my child is performing at above average levels on all of Oregon's standardized tests. He also benefits from a smaller classroom size and the spirit of community that is demonstrated throughout everything that's done at City View. City View just acquired INCREDIBLE space that is so much more conducive to learning (compared to the church campus that was tiny, dark, and had limited space for basic school functions such as a cafeteria in order to eat lunch away from their desks), and this space is currently at risk because of funding issues.

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. 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,