

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 Schoolboard member at Cannon Beach Academy, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3444. Oregon's public charter schools play a vital role in our education system, serving students who, for various reasons, were not effectively educated in district schools. Public charter schools are dedicated to educational innovation, providing personalized learning opportunities, and emphasizing equity and autonomy to transform the lives of young people.

Unfortunately, current Oregon law does not provide equitable funding for public charter school students. By passing HB 3444, we can address the outdated issues with Oregon's school funding model and ensure fair funding for public charter school students.

Oregon's public charter schools currently receive only 80% of State School Grant funds and lack access to several other revenue streams available to district schools. This has resulted in a significant funding disparity. A recent report by ECONorthwest found that Oregon public charter schools receive less than half the funding of their district counterparts. Over the past decade, charter school enrollment has increased, but funding relative to enrollment has decreased. Without access to an equitable share of the SSF Grant and other revenue streams, this gap will continue to grow.

At our school, this funding gap is evident in the below average teacher salaries, building maintenance, lack of supplies, to name a few.

Passing HB 3444 will help address this ongoing disparity by:

- Allowing charter school students to access 95% of the ADMw provided through the State School Fund.
- Allowing charter school students to access local, state, and federal education dollars currently available to non-charter public schools.
- Allowing charter schools to provide transportation services to students within their sponsoring district and access transportation reimbursement grant dollars for providing those services.

All students in Oregon's public education system should have access to fairly funded public education options that meet their needs. On behalf of our board, director, teachers, staff, and most importantly, our students, I urge you to support HB 3444.

Thank you,

Phillip Vincent, Board Chair