

Submitter: Allison Bonifay

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

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. We are grateful our children have had the opportunity to receive Waldorf education during their younger years, fostering a love for learning and creativity. Now as two of them enter college, it is clear their years in public charter schools nurtured them to choose their paths. We have a young Kindergartener now who is thriving in her Waldorf classroom and we hope she continues to receive the same opportunities.

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,