

*RE: House Bill 3444*

*Modifies the percentage of amounts that school districts must pay from the State School Fund to public charter schools that are not virtual public charter schools.*

I am writing in support of House Bill 3444. As a community member of Sauvie Island School, and also as a board member, grandmother of students attending SIS, and alumna of SIS, I can not stress how important this bill is. SIS leadership, staff and parents face so much pressure to constantly make up the shortfall in funds denied this public school. Despite serving students from all over the area as a public institution, SIS is denied the full financial amount it should be entitled to. And despite an incredibly supportive community—SIS is a place-based school that takes advantage of Sauvie Island's unique location amidst farms and wildlife habitat areas—the financial pressure on the community and the parents of the school is intense. This inequality creates an unknown in projecting costs for the school. So many of the schools activities and basic classroom improvements are based on just how much money can be raised by the students themselves, parents and community members. It's an incredible amount of pressure and simply unfair to Sauvie Island School.

Despite the funding shortfall, SIS is a remarkable school, serving it's students as enthusiastically as it can! I hope you will join SIS is supporting HB 3444.

Sincerely,

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