

Submitter: Carolyn Savage
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.

I chose a public charter school for my students because they were not being challenged enough at the school they were at. They would finish assignments well before other students in their class and have to wait before learning more. Instead of learning, they were spending a good amount of their day waiting to learn. At the public charter school they are at, they are able to learn at their speed and are both in advanced classes. They no longer have to wait for the rest of the class to finish as they can learn at their own pace. Public charter schools offer an important option in the public schooling system and should receive the same amount of funding per student as regular public schools.

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,

Carolyn Savage