

Submitter: Joshua Harding

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the Committee:

As the Specials teacher at Gresham Arthur Academy, I want to support House Bill 3444. Research shows charter schools receive only 80% of State School Grant funds. This is not fair or equitable for charter school students, families, or for myself as an educator.

One reason our school deserves fair funding is we ensure every student becomes a fluent, avid reader by the end of their Kindergarten year and we place students in academic groups where they can truly thrive. Through being a small school, we are also able to form meaningful relationships with students and their families both in and outside of school through many community events.

Personally, I feel the effects of our school being underfunded every day in my job. Other public schools have multiple teachers for PE, Art, Music, Recess Coordinators, and Reading small groups. Due to the very limited funds at our school, I plan and teach all of these subjects which can be overwhelming and not provide students with the best teaching in these areas since it is incredibly hard to do all five of my jobs to the best of my ability. With an increase in public charter school funding, our school could hire another teacher to teach some of these subjects and I would not have to teach so many different subjects which would help my students learn and thrive in their Specials classes and small groups.

I strongly urge you to pass HB 3444 to 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,

Joshua Harding

Specials (PE, Art, Music, Recess Coordinator, Reading Small Group) Teacher