

Submitter: Keren Standley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

To whom it may concern:

I have been a teacher at Gresham Arthur Academy Public Charter School for 18 years. Over the time I have taught here, I have seen the how massively the gap in funding between neighborhood schools and public charter schools impacts our school. We use a model of instruction that is extremely effective for most students. Our students are reading early in the year in Kindergarten and our math program is amazing. When we have students transfer from neighborhood schools, they often are behind grade level in our curriculum and we work very hard to catch them up. We had a new 3rd grader start this year who could not read. We placed her into our 1st Grade Small Groups class and she is now thriving. That being said, we are absolutely constrained in what we are able to do by our budget. Last year we had to eliminate a Small Groups Teacher position, meaning that the job is now being shared between our Principal, Vice Principal and SEL Specialist. This takes away time from their other, critical duties. It is absolutely not right that our charter schools receive a significantly lower amount of money than the neighborhood schools. My students deserve the same educational supports and opportunities as students in the neighborhood schools. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and please help move forward equitable funding for our kids.

Keren Standley

Small Groups Teacher

Gresham Arthur Academy