

Submitter: Katherine Brown

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 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. Many started out in traditional public schools, but couldn't receive the education they deserved, often due to learning challenges that required specialized attention beyond what a public school classroom could provide, or physical, developmental, or mental health challenges that public schools simply couldn't, or wouldn't, accommodate.

I currently have two children who attend a public charter school and one that graduated a few years ago - attending from kindergarten through 5th grade. We chose our public charter school over our neighborhood school because of the high reading and math skills this school produces. I was also impressed with the behavioral expectations the school sets. All of my children have been very successful at their charter school and love their school and learning environment. We love our charter school and believe all public charter schools deserve the same funding as neighborhood 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,

Katherine Brown