

Submitter: Arlo R  
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 an Oregon public charter school student, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. HB 3444 will fix a deep injustice currently happening in Oregon schools: that Oregon public charter school students are effectively funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students. Students at Ridgeline Montessori Charter School are public school students, and it's past time to fund our education fairly.

Each student here at Ridgeline Montessori Public Charter School has a story about why this school has made a positive difference in their life. 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.

One reason Ridgeline Montessori is special to me is the learning style. Some of my favorite memories here are of choosing my work and sitting down to do whatever I had chosen. I loved making the choice of what I want to do, and it made me more enthusiastic and a better learner. Instead of assigning endless busy work, my teachers gave a multitude of options for students to choose from. Now in middle school we have slightly less choice, but thanks to the strong base I built up in the lower grades I can easily adjust to a more guided learning style. This montessori education has prepared me to excel in high school next. I thrived in this environment, and a lot of other students did as well. Ridgeline Montessori public charter consistently scores above other public schools, proving montessori education works

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools like Ridgeline are significantly underfunded. This directly impacts me as a student. 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.

Sincerely, Arlo