

Submitter: Wolfgang S
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.

Montessori is the right place for me because nowhere else is. Let me explain. I've been to five different schools in my nine years as a student. Three of those were district schools. I was miserable in all of them nearly all of the time. Why? Because they don't have the same emphasis on a caring environment for everyone that Ridgeline does. My dad even took a serious second look at one of those schools over winter break and said, "This is where [a district that I am choosing not to name] dumps their problem kids." I did not return to that school after winter break was over. My experience with Ridgeline Montessori has been one of transforming, healing, and growth, matching no other school I've ever been in. If I had stayed in my previous school for one more year, there's a possibility I might have committed suicide.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools 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, Wolfgang

P.S: I know my teacher won't like it if I write this little extra note, but it's extremely crucial for everyone on this planet, so thoroughly read it. Always remember that you live in a positive, friendly universe that wants you to be happy and succeed. If you don't believe it, start acting like you do. You will find better things coming in your life, if you put the effort in and notice the opportunities as they come. That's why I know you will pass HB 3444 without a doubt: Because I put the proper time and energy into manifesting the result I desire. Take a page out of my book and do the same. What you project comes back to you, whether you like it or not, so you might as well start consciously projecting positivity. May the Force be with you.