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On Behalf Of: Gresham Arthur academy  
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 esteemed members of the Committee:

As a parent of a student attending an Oregon public charter school, I am reaching out today to express my support for House Bill 3444. This bill aims to address a significant funding disparity in Oregon schools: currently, students in public charter schools receive only 48 cents for every dollar that district students receive. Public charter school students are indeed public school students, and it is high time that their education is funded equitably.

Nearly every parent of a public charter school student has a personal story about why this educational option was the best choice for their child. Many began their journey in traditional public schools but found they could not access the quality education they deserved. This was often due to learning challenges that required specialized support beyond what public school classrooms could offer, or because of physical, developmental, or mental health issues that public schools either could not or would not accommodate.

My son Julian has experienced significant growth; he truly enjoys his school and is always eager to participate. We were quite concerned when searching for a school for him, especially since the one assigned to our neighborhood had a low academic rating. When we learned about Gresham Arthur Academy and its focus on smaller groups along with a high academic standing, we were thrilled and knew we wanted both our son and daughters to be part of this nurturing environment.

We truly value the school's commitment to smaller class sizes, which allows children to effectively cultivate their skills. Julian encountered some difficulties with his language, but his first year of kindergarten at Gresham Arthur Academy significantly aided his progress. The school fosters a secure environment, and the teachers and staff take immense pride in nurturing a caring and supportive space for the children to thrive. I believe they deserve increased resources and support from the state to further enhance the educational experience for all students, with hopes of providing better resources and additional funding for hiring assistance or acquiring supplies for art classes and outdoor equipment.

Regrettably, Oregon's existing school funding model has resulted in substantial

underfunding for public charter schools. Numerous facilities are outdated and require renovations, students face challenges accessing transportation services, food security programs are limited, and essential supplies along with mental health resources are lacking. By supporting HB 3444, you have the opportunity to address this ongoing inequity and ensure fair funding for public charter school students who are in urgent need.

Please cast your vote in favor of HB 3444.

Thank you,