

Submitter: Marissa Emery

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

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 beyond time to fund their education fairly.

My 13-year-old son attends City View Charter School, an Expeditionary Learning public charter school in the Hillsboro School District, and he is thriving there academically and loves having a place of learning that can focus on hands-on, engaging learning opportunities. He is a gifted student and spent many of his early elementary years in our neighborhood public school, which lacked the adaptability or capacity to meet his needs academically or socially. His placement at City View Charter School has given him a renewed enthusiasm for learning, a way to engage meaningfully in his learning, and the staff capacity to support his social and emotional regulation skills. This charter school, with space in its curriculum for focusing on personal development, learning with real life context, and developing curiosity, has supported his overall development in immeasurable ways.

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 support all kinds of student learners. Please vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,
Marissa Emery
Charter School parent