

Submitter: Alicia Kriewall-Lopez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

I am a former charter school teacher and my son currently attends a charter school. My son attends a charter school that relies on donations from families at the school to make ends meet. Even with this, there's a clear trade off with sending him to this school. He gets more in the special interest area of the charter school than if he were to attend a district school, but this is at the expense of tech, music and other classes that are standard at our neighborhood school. My son and his classmates are blessed that families at his school are able to make donations; however, this is not always the case. I have worked at charter schools without these extra funds. Schools where the student population chose charter because the public schools in the area were failing. These charter schools have students who are starting school behind, potentially with trauma or less support at home. These students need more to simply meet their needs, yet the schools receive less. This isn't fair. Charter schools fill a need when tradition public schools fail to meet that need. They should be funded appropriately.