

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Perry Latuharhary, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB-3444. My family has been privileged to be part of the Woodburn Arthur Academy community—first with my daughter, who completed her elementary education there, and now with my son, who is currently enrolled. Our experience has left no doubt in my mind that Oregon’s public charter schools provide a level of education that surpasses traditional public schools, despite receiving significantly less state funding.

Before transferring to Woodburn Arthur Academy, my daughter attended kindergarten in the Salem-Keizer School District, where reading instruction was based primarily on memorizing sight words. At the time, I thought she was doing well. It wasn’t until we switched to Arthur Academy that I saw how far behind she actually was. The structured phonics-based curriculum there transformed her ability to read—within a year, she was sounding out words on her own, something she had never been taught to do in her previous school.

The difference in academic quality is undeniable. Thanks to the dedication of the staff and the rigorous curriculum, my children consistently excel beyond their peers from other schools. And yet, charter schools are forced to operate on a fraction of the funding traditional public schools receive, often relying on fundraising and donations to bridge the gap.

Oregon’s public charter schools have proven their ability to deliver outstanding education while making the most of limited resources. They have more than earned fair and equitable funding. I urge you to support HB-3444 and ensure these schools have the financial resources they need to continue serving students and families across the state.

Sincerely,

Perry Latuharhary