

Submitter: Bonnie Carolan  
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 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 past time to fund their education fairly.

Almost every public charter school parent has a story as to why a public charter school became the right fit for their child.

My 10 year old child has attended Le Monde French Immersion since kindergarten, a language immersion public charter school within Portland Public Schools where he is thriving academically and developmentally. The school has provided the kind of support needed for him to balance learning a new language, core academics, a tight community, small enough classes to support his unique academic and personal learning style needs. He speaks, reads and writes French and would like to continue his education at Le Monde French Immersion through 8th grade. He has a younger brother who is linguistically gifted and would also thrive at Le Monde French Immersion once he's old enough to attend. We hope the school is fully funded by then. As a parent volunteer, I have seen first hand the transformative effect the extra funding can have, and I look forward the the school offering students even more support and positive experiences given the chance to receive equitable funding.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. Many buildings and grounds 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.

Thank you,  
Bonnie Carolan