

Submitter: Brittany Carlos
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444
HB 3444 Testimony

House Committee On Education
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear 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. Many started out in traditional public schools, but couldn't receive the education they deserved, often due to learning challenges that required specialized attention beyond what a public school classroom could provide, or physical, developmental, or mental health challenges that public schools simply couldn't, or wouldn't, accommodate for.

My 8 year old child attends public charter school , where he is thriving academically and socially. The school has provided the kind of support needed for him, and did the same for his older brother. The charter school has contributed to both of their overall development in immeasurable ways.

The difference I have seen in my sons and their peers who go to standard public school is impressive. I have seen first hand the transformative effect the extra funding would have on our, and every, charter school.

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 vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,

Brittany Carlos