Submitter: Connie Lopez-Cortez

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, 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 student, and it's past time to fund their education fairly.

I have two children who attend at Woodburn Arthur Academy, where they thrive academically and socially. One kid in particular (Theo) who is currently in 3rd grade. My son Theo was diagnosed with brain cancer since Kinder at WAA. WAA and their staff have been nothing but supportive and helpful throughout this whole journey. The whole school fought with Theo as he kicked cancers butt. Theo is now on remission and WAA and their staff have been working so hard, making sure Theo is academically on track with so many months/weeks missed due to radiation and chemotherapy. The school has provided the kind of care and support he needs. Making sure Theo is having fun but mostly on track. Dropping him off everyday, has brought so much joy and comfort knowing he is loved and will taken care of.

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,

Connie
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