

Submitter: Rebecca Peterson
On Behalf Of: City View Charter
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. 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 boys have been going to City View Charter since Kindergarten. When we got accepted, I was thrilled because I knew this learning style would be beneficial to my kids.

Instead of having to sit for hours listening to the teacher, students are able to learn in a hands on environment. This makes learning more relatable and fun. Not everyone learns the same way, and City view gives each person a chance to learn and succeed in a way that works for them.

For example, my son learned about Human rights this year in 5th grade. Instead of just reading about it, they were challenged with the assignment to pick and research a Civil Rights activist. It didn't stop with research. They wrote out a speech, memorized it and shared it with family and friends.

This is just one of the things that makes City view Charter school an amazing place to grow and learn.

City view teaches the students to respect each other, collaboration, critical thinking and perseverance.

This is key tools to succeed in the world.

I know my boys have benefited from being able to be students here. It is my hope that many more kids will get to be able to as well.

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,
Rebecca