

Submitter: Lora Modlin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

I am writing in support of increasing Oregon charter school funding. Charter schools provide Oregon students with an important opportunity to access educational models that are not offered in conventional public schools. I moved to Oregon 13 years ago to specifically work in the public Montessori charter that I am still part of because I believe deeply that more students should have the opportunity to attend PUBLIC Montessori programs. When it comes to funding for Oregon Charters our programs should be receiving equivalent funding to conventional public schools because we are held to the same standards of the conventional programs (as it should be). Oregon Charters not receiving full funding is a Civil Rights issue. The students who attend our charter schools should not be deprived access to programs and supports just because of a compromise that took place 20 years ago to approve charter programs. Charter schools are NOT a threat to conventional programs, we are an asset to the communities on all levels. The "us vs them" needs to stop. We are all here to support our students and the success of their futures as well as the communities they are a part of. By increasing the funding charter schools receive we are investing in Oregon's future success. The teachers at Oregon charter schools are no less valuable than our conventional counter parts and by increasing the funding we will be able to attract and keep the highly qualified educators that want to support Oregon students. The way that Oregon Charter Law is written we have insured that only high-quality charter programs are offered and the corporate models that are allowed in other states that give charter schools a bad reputation are not allowed to get established, which I deeply value. By maintaining that aspect of our law and increasing funding, Oregon has an opportunity to show other states how to run high-quality public school choice. With all public schooling under threat from this current federal administration it is important that Oregonians stand strong that we are not willing to sacrifice our children's futures and know a "one size fits all" model of schooling is a disservice them. Please show you support of Oregon Charter schools by voting to support and pass HB 3444.