

Submitter: Dominic Maze

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

Dear House Committee on Education,

I fully support more equitable funding of charter schools. Oregon charter school students are indeed public school students. Whether or not one supports the existence of charter schools is a separate issue to funding these schools fairly. The fact is that there are Oregon children attending these schools and underfunding charter schools hurts the student experience. My wife and I work hard and are happy to pay taxes to support all students at public and charter schools in Oregon, as long as our dollars are fairly spent on children. Living in rural Oregon, a local charter school makes the most sense for our family: location-wise, schedule-wise, etc. We don't care whether it is a public school, per se, or a charter school. A lot is said these days about equity and rightly so. To make this happen, charter schools need their fair share of resources to support special education, high quality teachers, teacher and program development and adequate facilities. Every parent of a charter school student is an Oregon taxpayer - their state taxes are not reduced by 20% because their child attends a charter school. These parents deserve schools for their children that are equally resourced. Similarly, teachers deserve to make a living wage and not be penalized because they work for a charter school. The bottom line is that if the state has allowed these schools to be created, they are obligated to fund them fairly so they can run high quality programs.