



## OREGON COALITION OF COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

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

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the Committee:

The Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools proudly represents 30 member schools, serving 42,600 students across Oregon. Our schools represent broad geographic diversity – from Crater Lake to Rockwood – and incredible student diversity, with students from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, socioeconomic statuses, family situations, and learning abilities.

In the 25 years since Oregon passed its Charter School Statute, public charter schools have become a critical part of Oregon’s public school system, with nearly 132 schools operating today. Public charter schools are undeniably unique, as are many of the students we serve. Many of these students haven’t found their “right fit” at district schools, for a variety of reasons, and are able to find that fit at a public charter school. As an association we center core principles in all of our work: equity, collaboration, autonomy & accountability, and innovation. Our schools are educational innovators, provide personalized educational opportunities for our students, and emphasize equity and autonomy to transform the lives of young people.

Charter schools provide a tremendous amount of value to Oregon’s students and educational system, but outdated issues with Oregon’s school funding model are hurting our students, and our school’s ability to implement the core principles we believe in. While district schools can access multiple funding streams, public charter schools only have access to a few, the most substantial (but inequitable) is the State School Fund Grant – and even then it is only 80% of the fund. This dynamic has created a huge disparity in funding, with public charter school students being essentially funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students.

After nearly 25 years, it's time to address this funding disparity by passing House Bill 3444. This bill, and the -2 Amendment that ensures all Oregon charter schools are included, will be a monumental step forward for Oregon students. Oregon’s public charter school students are public school students, and they deserve school funding that aligns more closely with students in district schools.



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There are dozens of stories being provided through both verbal and written testimony today, from school leaders, parents, and students, taking time out of their busy lives to tell you how important this issue is to them. I hope you will listen to their stories, and on behalf of them, I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 3444.

Thank you,

Iris Maria Chavez

Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools