

March 12, 2025

Dear Esteemed State Representatives,

My name is Kyle Peterson and I am writing to you as a parent and Oregon resident in support of increasing the percentage of State School Fund monies from 80% to 95% for public charter schools in Oregon.

My daughters attend Madrone Trail, a Waldorf-inspired school in the Medford Unified School District. My wife, Carrie, teaches gardening there to the students. We love our school and its dedicated staff. We volunteer regularly and participate in school functions and its governance. Many other parents are dedicated like we are, too, but that support is not the monetary kind the school needs.

We can see firsthand the positive difference that would be made by the increase in funding, which a board member estimated to be \$500,000 per year. We could afford repairs and improvements to the aging facility; hire extra staff to aid teachers; feed our students; and bolster savings to aid the school in its long-term strategic goals.

The recent federal budget cuts have already been felt by our school. We have an amazing school food program that feeds kids daily with hot, nutritious meals, which got off the ground with a USDA grant. That grant is expiring this year and the grant program was just terminated, so there will be no opportunity for renewal. Funding for schools like ours will become even more competitive and harder to come by.

The Waldorf model teaches children about their inner heart, their mind, and their hands; how to be curious, kind, and respectful to all people, no matter the difference. The children and teachers sing greetings and goodbyes to each other daily; the children are nurtured by the community of our school and taught a way of being outside of it that will benefit all whom they meet in life. This increase in ADU funds would make all the difference between our school thriving or stunting its growth. Please vote in favor of increasing the State School Fund monies allocated to public charter schools. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle W. Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'P'.

Kyle Peterson
835 Valley Lane
Jacksonville, Oregon 97530