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On Behalf Of: 3
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.

We live in a very small town that would not have it's own elementary school without our public charter school. Our only other option would be a very large school that is 9.5 miles away on a two lane highway that often floods in the winter time. The Cannon Beach Academy (CBA) has been able to give my very shy, introverted daughter a personalized education that has helped her thrive! My daughter was behind in her academics, about 1.5 grades below grade level, this is not far enough behind to qualify for any special educational instruction. CBA did not care that she didn't technically qualify, they took steps to improve her learning environment (giving her small group instruction, allowing her to get instructions in "chunks", sitting closer to the teacher and having frequent check-in for understanding). With these measures implemented she was able to get up to grade level within one year! I truly believe that she would not have gotten her needs met at our public school that has almost 600 students.

In addition, I did not want to send my young child to a school that far away on a road that floods multiple times a year. I looked up an old neighborhood of mine in Portland OR and they had 9 elementary schools within a 5 mile radius to choose from. Without

our public charter school we would only have one choice in a 10 mile radius. Not only does our public charter school offer our local students an excellent education, but it gives our small tourist town a hub to build our local community. With the connections made through our school, our whole community comes together and becomes stronger. CBA has improved my daughter's education and our towns community as a whole and I am so grateful for it!

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. Our buildings is old and in need of upgrades, students can't access transportation services, food security programs are only available because of private donations, and our school 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