



March 12, 2025

Dear Chair Neron and members of the House Education Committee,

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools is a national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the public charter school community, ensuring every child has access to a great public school. The purpose of this letter is to express our support for HB 3444 (relating to public charter school funding; declaring an emergency) sponsored by Representatives Wright, Diehl, Harbick, Reschke, and Osborn.

All students should have access to a high-quality public education, and The National Alliance is proud to support measures that advance funding parity between school districts and public charter schools. Sadly, Oregon charter school students receive funding that is among the most inequitable in the country. According to a report by ECONorthwest, as of 2023, funding for Oregon's public charter school students dropped to an astonishing 48% of their district peers—down from 63% in 2013.

HB 3444 ensures that public charter schools receive federal, state, and local funding on the same basis as non-chartered public schools, requires school districts to pay non-virtual public charter schools 95% of the district's general purpose grant for students enrolled in the school, and recognizes transportation costs incurred by public charter schools as equivalent to district school transportation costs for funding purposes. These are important reforms that will help close the deeply unfair funding gap between Oregon's public charter school and district school students.

The National Alliance is pleased to submit this letter of support for HB 3444 and strongly urges the committee to vote for its approval to ensure that every Oregon family has access to a high-performing public school that meets the unique needs of its students. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

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