

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Courtney Neron, Chair
The Honorable Boomer Wright, vice chair
House Committee on Education

Re: HB 3444 Oregon charter schools

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Chair Kropf, Members of the Committee:

As chair of the EAGLE Charter School Board, I am proud of the incredible progress our small school is making – for ALL children we serve. EAGLE consistently ranks higher than average on standardized tests, plus attendance averaging 95 percent. We were a bellwether in “virtual readiness” during the Pandemic.

The longevity of our staff just might be unsurpassed. All have been teaching or helping for at least five years. Parents are engaged. No kid is left behind. We take care of each other during a crisis. And leadership goes above and beyond, for the financial challenges they face.

Charter schools offer proven options for children who struggle in traditional public schools -- and for those amazing little minds who can soar, they lift them as high as they can fly.

As the former public relations director for the Oregon School Boards Association, and PIO for the Salem Keizer School District, I’ve never seen a better performing school on so many levels – and I credit leadership. Sadly, the challenges they face are wearing them down . . . but they soldier on.

We need to support charters AT LEAST at the same level as regular public schools (and in my own opinion, even more since they **get better results**). We need to make it easier for any family to choose charters, whether it’s through easier transportation or financial support.

I fully support HB 3444, on behalf of all charter schools and children who thrive in these amazing learning environments.

Shannon Priem, Chair
EAGLE Charter School Board
Salem, Oregon