



Better Public Education

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson,

My name is Hugh Ady. I'm with Statecraft, a government relations firm representing Better Public Education, a nonprofit association dedicated to improving Oregon's public education system through increased funding, standards that measure progress, and choice that allows students to thrive in the setting that's best for them.

Better Public Education wholeheartedly supports House Bill 3444, which provides equitable funding for the 136 non-virtual public schools in Oregon. Currently, charter schools in Oregon receive significantly less funding compared to traditional non-charter public schools.

Public charter schools are an asset in the education toolkit to improve educational outcomes for Oregon students. Innovation should be encouraged and fostered in Oregon's K-12 education system. Charter schools are intended to be centers for educational innovation, while functioning as public schools.

With increased funding, charter schools will have greater resources to address student needs. Recent headlines make it clear that the state of education in Oregon is experiencing significant challenges. Staff at public charter schools have been compelled to take pay cuts to make school budgets work, and parents and staff have had to coordinate multiple fundraisers to raise additional funds.

If a public charter school is considered a public school, then it should be funded like a public school. It's that simple.

Better Public Education urges passage of House Bill 3444 by this committee, and I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.