

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 as a family choose to place our daughter in a charter school due to the ability to focus on a specific curriculum that will allow her to be focused on community, education and building key emotional milestones to be a positive contribution to the future education and someday workforce. All children should have this option for more focused and mindful learning. We need this now more than ever.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are

significantly underfunded. Many buildings are old and in need of upgrades, students can't access transportation services, food security programs are limited, and schools 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,

Danielle & Alexander Frank