

## **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 Oregon public charter school students, 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 its 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.

For our family, we chose a public charter school because our children learn best through non-traditional methods, particularly hands-on experiences and real-world connections. They have a deep passion for animals and the outdoors, and we appreciate that their charter school incorporates these interests into their education. The school's emphasis on experiential learning—such as monthly field trips and integrating core subjects into a semester theme, currently focused on plants and pollinators—has been transformative for them. We have seen real growth in their enthusiasm for learning and in their academic progress.

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,**

Callie Piumbroeck, RN, PHN, IBCLC