

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,

Hello, my name is Keoni Yuki Pacheco, and I'm a 5th grader going to the public charter school by the name "Woodburn Arthur Academy". Hearing the fact that Oregon public charter schools are essentially funded at 48 cents makes me feel in despair. That's bad news for me, and my classmates. Think of why you're doing this. Think of the dark future us kids will have if you don't pass the House Bill 3444. Public charter school students ARE public school students, and the fact that we are being treated differently is outrageous. It's past time to fund our education FAIRLY!

It seems to me that adults aren't always right (With all due respect to the Committee). We need a good education if we want to accomplish our goals and dreams. Some might want to be a mathematician. You need a good education to do that. Some might want to be a teacher. You need a good education to do that (and a license). My point is, think of the dreams you're crushing. Teachers might drop out. Kids might not get the right education. Maybe the whole public charter school falls apart. Treat us like a public school!

Think of all the lives you'll be saving if you pass the House Bill 3444. If teachers get a raise, they can pay their taxes. If we get enough money, we can buy new supplies. Kids can have new pencils to write. The school can stay. So, please, with all due respect, pass this bill. Let me repeat, pass this bill.

Sincerely, and respectfully,

Keoni Yuki Pacheco.

(Postscript: PLEASE PASS THE HOUSE BILL 3444.)