

Submitter: David Phillips
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

Dear Chair Huron and Members of the Education Committee,

I am providing testimony in support of HB 3444 and asking for your support in its passage. I recently enrolled my son at Bend International School (BIS). We were fortunate that during the lottery process, we were given placements in many of Bend's magnet schools: Juniper Elementary, Amity Creek Elementary, and Highland. We were also accepted into Bear Creek, the dual medium school for Bend. We selected BIS over these other excellent options because of the international scope the school adopts, provides connection with family roots, and a balanced approach to STEM, arts, and languages. I did not know at the time of enrolling that charter schools receive less funding than the public funded magnet schools. Despite less funding, BIS has met my expectations. My child is performing well and enjoying his first year of public school. However, with reduced I wonder what opportunities and support are lost or if teachers and administrators are more stressed compared to their colleagues at other schools. I also see parents supporting the school wherever needed. I do not see a rationale for charter schools to receive less funding when held to the same educational requirements as magnet schools.

Please see some specific points below.

Our state's initial - and now outdated - charter school legislation is not in line with our state's current priorities.

- It diverts funding for early education and intervention, with K - 8 students receiving only 80% of their intended per pupil funding.
- It diverts funding for our historically underserved communities, with less than half of the intended state weighed funds flowing through to serve those children.
- It blocks access to federal funding, which is specifically intended to serve historically underserved students. This includes no access to IDEA, Title I, and Title III.

I urge you as a constituent and as a parent to support HB 3444, have it referred to committee, and ultimately vote in support of this very necessary fix in our public education funding.

Sincerely

David Phillips