

Submitter: Robin Skinner

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 am a parent of a student enrolled in Bend International School in Bend, Oregon. After just one year in a larger district-run school, we realized that our son would not thrive in a large school and would easily become lost in the crowd. We chose a charter school so that his needs could be better met in a small community of students and teachers. I recently became aware that my child was receiving less than half the funding than his peers in district-run schools (52% less). My son deserves the same amount of investment in his future as any other child in the Bend-La Pine school district. As a 4th generation Oregon native and Bend resident, the fact that mine and my family's tax dollars do not support my own child's education as it supports other students in the school district is extremely disheartening. We are asking for equality for all students, their future depends on it.

Our state's initial - and now outdated - charter school legislation is not in line with our state's current priorities.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

Thank you for your consideration,

Robin Skinner