

Submitter: Jodi Groteboer
On Behalf Of: Bend International School
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. Both of my children have benefited tremendously from this charter school (Bend International). They have received the attention and critical thinking skills that every child deserves. My daughter is thriving in High School after attending this charter school. We were privileged with having this amazing option for a smaller school with the focus on empathy and understanding this diverse world we live in. My kids will take that with them throughout their lives and share what they have learned.

All public school students in Oregon deserve the same investment in their education, whether attending a public charter school or public district-run school. Right now students in public charter schools receive 48% of the funding that their peers in district-run school receive, an unsettling fact from a recent report by ECONorthwest. My child's education is worth more than 48 cents on the dollar.

Our state's initial - and now outdated - charter school legislation is not in line with our state's current priorities.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

Jodi Groteboer