

Submitter: Margy Hoffman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

My name is Margy Hoffman and my children have both attended Bend International School (a public charter school in Bend) since their Kindergarten year. They are now in 7th and 9th grades. Last year, the 9th grader was the first graduating class to have started in Kinder and made it through 8th grade at BIS. It was an amazing experience they he could not have gotten at an in-district public school. We chose BIS for the strong sense of community and the focus on international education. Being with the same group of kids from Kinder through middle school has many benefits, as well.

I pay the same taxes as parents of children who go to non-charter schools and my children receive only around 48% of the funding that their peers at district-run schools receive. Charter schools receive very few services from the district, despite the fact that they keep half of their funds. Charter school must work harder in so many ways to provide the same level of services that in-district schools provide. All students deserve the same investment in their education, regardless of which public school they choose to attend.

Charter school legislation is outdated. I ask that you refer HB 3444 to committee and support its passage.

Thank you for your time.