

Submitter: Scott Purrier
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444
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:

As parents of successful Oregon public charter school students, we are writing today in support of House Bill 3444. We found out that Oregon public charter school students are funded at only 48 cents on the dollar compared to students in other public schools. Public charter school students are public school students and it's time to fund their education fairly. HB 3444 will fix a funding gap currently happening in Oregon schools.

Public charter school is a life changer for our two sons! They each have their own story but the common thread is that the local public school could not meet their needs to complete diploma requirements within their high school years. As 12th graders, we enrolled them in the local charter school. The charter school teachers went above and beyond, challenging and working individually with them, motivating and keeping them on track to complete their high school requirements. What a joy it was for us to see them graduate with their graduating class! This would not have happened in the local school. The charter school met the individual student needs, worked with them, and led to success!

We are shocked to find out that Oregon's current school funding model leaves public charter schools considerably underfunded. The amazing resource we have in public charter schools for Oregon's children is struggling to keep teachers' pay comparable to the district schools, provide resources the students need, and best serve our children. This should not be the case! By passing HB 3444, you can fix this ongoing disproportion and provide fair funding for public charter school students who deeply need it.

Please vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,
Scott and Denise Purrier

Parents of Charter School Students