



March 10, 2025

House Committee On Education
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee:

I am Stephanie Pogue, and I serve as the Executive Director for Crater Lake Academy. I am here today on behalf of my Board, staff, school parents, and most importantly, CLA's students to urge your support of House Bill 3444.

Crater Lake Academy Charter School serves students in partnership with Eagle Point School District 9. Through this partnership, we have been able to provide a public education path to students and families in our region who have wanted an alternative option while at the same time being able to keep these students in the public school system.

HB 3444 will fix a deep disparity currently happening in Oregon schools: Oregon public charter school students being valued at a rate of thousands of dollars less per year than traditional district students. Public charter school students are public school students, and we desperately need equity in funding to serve the growing needs of our students. Additionally, the requirements from state and district partners on public charter schools is not the same as when funding for public charter schools was set in 1999. Most all educational requirements being placed on school districts today equally apply to charter schools, yet our funding rate has stayed the same for over 25 years.

The ability to provide essential learning supports, including mental health and wellbeing resources, grows more difficult with each budget, yet the needs of our students are only growing. By passing HB 3444, you can fix this ongoing disparity and provide fair funding for public charter school students who deeply need it.

Please vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,
Stephanie Pogue
Executive Director