



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:

As an educator and school administrator for an Oregon public charter school, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. HB 3444 will fix a deep disparity currently happening in Oregon schools: Oregon public charter school students are essentially funded at a rate of thousands of dollars less each year as compared to district students. Public charter school students are public school students, and it's past time to fund their education fairly.

Crater Lake Academy Charter School serves students in partnership with Eagle Point School District 9. Being able to be a district partner has allowed the charter school to provide a public educational path to students and families in the region who need an alternative option. If not for this partnership to remain in the public educational system, these students may have been lost to homeschool or private school options.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. Many schools are unable to provide essential learning supports, including mental health and well-being resources, which are afforded by school districts. 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,

Elizabeth Bilden

K-8 School Principal