

Submitter: ROXANNE DUNN
On Behalf Of: Gresham Arthur Academy
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 a parent of an Oregon public charter school student, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. HB 3444 will fix a deep disparity currently happening in Oregon schools: that Oregon public charter school students are essentially funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students. Public charter school students are public school students, and it's past time to fund their education fairly.

Almost every public charter school parent has a story as to why a public charter school became the right fit for their child. Many started out in traditional public schools, but couldn't receive the education they deserved, often due to learning challenges that required specialized attention beyond what a public school classroom could provide, or physical, developmental, or mental health challenges that public schools simply couldn't, or wouldn't, accommodate for.

My daughter has been fortunate enough to get a spot this year in the third grade class at Gresham Arthur Academy after 3 years in the public school system. It is a night and day difference being a part of a charter school. She receives a top quality education! Her math, reading, and writing skills have advanced so much. She is excelling and is much happier. She is no longer bullied and feels fully supported by her charter school staff. She also participates in drama club, whereas her public school had no extracurricular activities whatsoever. I see only positive things in her educational future and in her mental health future, and it is all thanks to her charter school experience.

My younger daughter will start kindergarten next year, and we are so excited for her to join her sister at Gresham Arthur Academy. She will be exposed to their curriculum for her entire elementary school experience. She will not have to endure the pain and issues that her older sister did.

Please vote yes on HB 3444 so that my daughters and their classmates can receive the funding that they deserve. I currently drive over an hour a day taking my older

daughter to and from her charter school because there is no funding for school transportation. In addition, her school does not always have the funds for school supplies that are needed. They often depend on donations.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. Many buildings are old and in need of upgrades, students can't access transportation services, food security programs are limited, and schools lack essential school supplies and mental health resources. 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,
Roxanne Dunn