

Testimony in Support of HB 3444
Marlene Radillo
March 13, 2025

Dear: Chair Huron and Members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3444. My name is Marlene Radillo and I am a mother of 2 children (3rd and 4th grade) who attend Bend International School. I choose this public charter school because of their diverse community and their Spanish Development Program. Our public charter school serves diverse communities like our family, often providing innovative and personalized learning opportunities that meet the unique needs of students. Yet they are expected to do so with significantly fewer resources. This inequity directly affects students by limiting access to experienced bilingual teachers, extracurricular programs, support services, and up-to-date learning materials. I am here today to urge you to pass this critical legislation to ensure fairness and equity in school funding for all public-school students.

HB 3444 is a necessary step toward ensuring that all public-school students in Oregon—regardless of whether they attend a district-run or public charter school—receive fair funding. Right now, students in public charter schools receive 48% of the funding that their peers in district-run school receive, an unsettling fact from a recent report by ECONorthwest. **My child's education is worth more than 48 cents on the dollar.**

Our state's initial **and now outdated** charter school legislation is not in line with our state's current priorities.

- It diverts funding for early education and intervention, with K-8 students receiving only 80% of their intended per pupil funding.
- It diverts funding for our historically underserved communities, with less than half of the intended state weighed funds flowing through to serve those children.
- It blocks access to federal funding, which is specifically intended to serve historically underserved students. This includes no access to IDEA, Title I, and Title III.

I respectfully urge you as a constituent and as a parent to support HB 3444, have it referred to committee, and ultimately vote in support of this very necessary fix in our public education funding. Give all students access to the resources they need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marlene Radillo