

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 undoubtedly deserve **equal investment** in their education, resources, and future. No child within the Oregon public education system should be given less consideration than others.

My kindergartner attends **Springwater Environmental Science School**, a public charter school within the Oregon City school district. The school provides a **unique and nurturing environment** with integration of the sciences within their guiding philosophy and curriculum. The flexibility the school has as a charter to tailor academic and social learning to the values of **authenticity, creativity, and curiosity** is of great value to all within the school community. The staff is **tirelessly dedicated** to their students, and the **community** of parents, students, and volunteers come together daily to support the school in numerous ways. As a parent volunteer, I have seen firsthand the **transformative effect that fair funding would have** on our, and every, charter school.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, **public charter schools are significantly underfunded**. The school we attend is old and in dire need of upgrades. This winter, the temperature in my son's classroom was regularly in the 50's during class time due to the inadequacy of the outdated heating system. **Students can't access transportation services, food services, and necessary support services**. Please listen to the countless teachers, parents, and students who are asking for fair funding of their public schools. By passing HB 3444, you can **fix this ongoing disparity** and ensure that **all Oregon public school students are treated with equal respect**.

Please vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,

Justin Kornbleet