



To: Members of the House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee
From: Iris Maria Chávez, Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools
Date: March 20, 2025
Re: House Bill 3881

Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Munoz and Elmer, and members of the Committee:

I write to you on behalf of the Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools, our state's charter support organization and are a coalition of community-based, public charter schools representing all corners of our state. We represent approximately 26,000 public school students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade, in about 100 school buildings, operating in all regions of the state.

HB 3881 would impose significant administrative and financial burden, as written, on public charter schools. Public Charter schools are independent, 501c3 non-profit organizations, operating with significantly less financial resources than our district run school counterparts. In fact, we receive approximately 48 cents for every one dollar a district run schools receives for operations.

We cannot support the provision in HB 3881 that would designate a public charter school as a "qualifying agency." If enacted the charter school will be responsible for determining if the contractor has an "available history of material compliance with federal and state laws that specify: (A) Wage rates and hours of work, including requirements to pay a prevailing rate of wage; and (B) Occupational safety and health requirements."

While we appreciate the desire for state funds to meet certain requirements, to comply with these requirements would be incredibly burdensome for public charter schools. Many, if not most, of our public charter schools operate with so few staff that our principals teach in classrooms, they run school meal programs, handle drop-off/pick-up, just to name a few of the "extra" duties performed in addition to their administrative duties.

Charter schools do not have access to the same funding mechanisms as school districts and so this will likely have a greater impact on charter schools than traditional school districts due to current funding limitations for schools.

In remaining true to the spirit and intent of the public charter school statute we respectfully request that public charter schools be removed from the list of qualifying entities in this legislation.

Iris Maria Chávez
Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools (ORC3S)