

Dear Oregon House Revenue Committee Members,

We are writing to tell you why we love Molalla River Academy. We love that we are placed in math groups based on what we know. It is wonderful that we are allowed to use tools to help us learn and not just paper and pencils. We are learning new methods for solving math problems, which are much easier than the way our parents were taught.

We love that our teachers are very supportive of us as individuals. It is great that our teachers are standing up for our school. We are learning how to create a kind learning environment. We are able to partner up with other students of all ages and learn from them too.

MRA lets us plant trees and other plants at our school. At MRA we get to do really cool science projects such as magnets, gears, balance, weights and drops. We even made clocks! We love that we are allowed to be very creative with our writing. We are even publishing books! We have a super cool art teacher that lets us make pottery and abstract art.

Sincerely,

Ms. Glasmire's Second and Third Graders at Molalla River Academy



To the members of the Oregon House Revenue Committee,

Thank you Co-Chair Barnhart and Co-Chair Berger for the time to speak with you today. I am attending this hearing on House Bill 3397 because I am very concerned that many charter schools in the state of Oregon are not receiving equal financial support as our fellow public schools. I believe very strongly in the value of public education in our state and country and entered this profession with the desire to bring innovative and creative teaching techniques to students from all backgrounds and communities.

I have chosen to work at Molalla River Academy, a young charter school, because of our commitment to reach students where they are with a variety of small groupings; to teach curriculum that is thematic in nature and therefore focuses on essential and related content and specific thinking and research skills; and to teach to the whole child through our emphasis on the arts, inclusion of the outdoors in our teaching, and our focus on multi-age experiences where children learn to work together regardless of age and ability. I was so glad to find a school that emphasized all of these things and I believe it is important to have such schools as options for our local families.

Funding of education within our state can be very confusing and because districts receive funds from a variety of sources I can understand how the amount that gets funneled through to charter schools can sometimes be less than is required by law. However, this is simply not something that can continue to happen. If a district decides to approve a charter school, it must take on the responsibility of passing through an equal amount of funding to charter school students as their district peers receive. It is a question of equality. I believe the 95% number that House Bill 3379 suggests will allow for differences in district facilities cost, while maintaining equality in educational options. I hope you choose to support this bill so that my school, and the children that attend it, can receive an even more quality education.

Thank you for your hard work on this issue.

-Laurel Glasmire