



PORTLAND
VILLAGE
SCHOOL
a public charter school



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Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber and members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today in support of HB 3199. I am the Executive Director of the Portland Village School. The Portland Village School is a Public Waldorf charter school in the Portland Public school district. We serve approximately 420 students living in the greater Portland area, from kindergarten through eighth grade. Our students come to us because we can offer unique opportunities and an innovative educational model that aren't otherwise available in PPS. As a public charter school we receive fewer financial and facilities resources to serve our students and that also means that certain regulations and requirements, though well meaning, are challenging to implement. This bill is all about making sure that schools can provide a better quality education for our students by cutting away at cumbersome regulations.

Charter schools are a crucial part of our education system because they offer unique educational models and resources for children in our community. HB 3199 would allow charter schools to allocate more resources to our students' learning experiences, teacher development, and support services while still maintaining more than adequate physical education requirements. It simply means we can work to support our students' unique needs without the burden of unfunded mandates and excess regulations.

I ask you to support this bill because unnecessary, "one-size-fits-all" regulations can disproportionately impact smaller charter schools that may not have the resources to comply in the same way as larger schools. By supporting this bill, we can ensure that these vital institutions are able to allocate their resources based on the unique needs and circumstances of our students and families.

So, I urge you to support HB 3199 and help our community charter schools support our students. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

With appreciation,

Dr. Jennifer Stackhouse, Ed D
Executive Director, Portland Village School