

Adreana D. Kusaba, MPH, CPH

Board Member

Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School

8205 SW Creekside Pl

Beaverton, OR 97008

March 6, 2025

House Education Committee

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support HB 3444 – Fund Charter Schools Fairly. Fund Our Kids Fairly.

Dear Chair, Vice Chairs, and Members of the House Education Committee,

Let's be clear: public charter school students are public school students. But for years, they've been funded like they're worth less. That's not just a budget issue; that's a values issue.

Right now, Oregon's charter schools receive a fraction of the funding that district schools do—yet we're expected to provide the same quality education, the same services, and the same opportunities. And when charter schools serve diverse, working-class communities, this underfunding doesn't just hurt schools—it hurts kids.

At Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School, we've built an inclusive, high-quality bilingual education that's open to *every* student, regardless of their family's financial situation. This commitment has enabled students from all backgrounds to access Spanish immersion education, creating a more inclusive and equitable learning experience. But when public charter schools like ours receive fewer dollars per student, we're forced to do more with less. Less funding means fewer resources, fewer teachers, and fewer opportunities for our kids.

HB 3444 is simple: it ensures public charter school students receive 95% of the State School Fund—because they deserve nothing less. It also allows charter schools to access critical funding streams and transportation grants, removing barriers that make it harder for families to choose the school that best fits their child's needs.

This is about fairness. This is about equity. Continuing to underfund these schools sends a clear message—intended or not—that some kids deserve less. If we truly believe in education for all, we must ensure that funding reflects this commitment.

I urge you to support HB 3444 and invest in *all* of Oregon's students.

With respect and appreciation for your service,

Adreana D. Kusaba, MPH, CPH

Board Member

Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School