

Submitter: Katrina Bray
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the Committee:

We are parents of three Oregon public charter school students, one who is a successful freshman at our neighborhood high school, and twins in 5th grade at our foreign language immersion charter. I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. HB 3444 to help fix the disparity currently happening in Oregon schools.

We love our neighborhood elementary school, but my exceptionally bright children were have been intellectually stimulated through their language immersion charter in a way that a traditional public elementary school would not have been able to do. Our freshman who came up through the charter elementary school seeks out every advanced and AP opportunity in high school. We believe this is largely thanks to her early education that showed her the rewards of working hard, seeking out challenges, and the accomplishment that comes with fluency in a second language. Additionally, the exposure to other cultures associated with their second language has been invaluable, and has fostered a sense of curiosity and global connectedness that will stay with them forever.

In our charter school's case, there was no true playground, no cafeteria, gym, or library. There is no lunch program and the building is woefully outdated. As parents, we have worked tirelessly to fundraise and privately help to bridge the gap, but the sacrifices the kids make continue to be problematic. By passing HB 3444, you can fix this ongoing disparity and provide fair funding for public charter school students who deeply need it.

Please vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,
Katrina and Matthew Bray
Portland, Oregon