

I am writing today to urge your support for HB 3444. I have been a public school educator in the state of Oregon for the past 30 years. This spring I will retire as the principal of Springwater Environmental Sciences school in Oregon City. I couldn't be more proud of the work our staff does day in and day out to provide a positive learning environment for every student. We do all this work while receiving 80% of the state funding for each of our students. Our sponsoring district keeps the remaining 20%. This results in a funding gap of \$400,000 per year. We have asked for the district to increase the pass through from 80% to 85% for the past 3 years. They have said no. In this relationship we have no bargaining power, the district has no incentive to increase this passthrough.

It is important to remember that our charter school serves the same Oregon City students as the Oregon City School District. We are providing public education options for Oregon City families. One major difference is the fact that we cannot participate or conduct bond measures. So while OCSD passed a \$163 million dollar bond for facilities, we will not be eligible for a dime of that. Charter schools who own their own building are in a very tight spot. For our school passing HB 3444 and increasing the pass through to 95% would be a game changer. We could plan and save for future facilities repairs and improvement, including needed safety upgrades.

I firmly believe in the importance of public school. Charter schools are public schools. We need your support to continue to provide financial support for schools doing innovative work in the state of Oregon. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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