

Submitter: Becky Dawson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

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I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3444 and to urge you to vote in favor of this important legislation. As a parent with children who have attended charter schools in the Oregon City School District for the past 12 years, I have seen firsthand the immense value these schools provide to students and families in our community.

Charter schools are an essential part of Oregon's public education system, yet they operate with significantly less funding than traditional district schools. Currently, they receive only 80% of the state's per-student funding, while the remaining 20% is retained by the district. This funding disparity creates a major financial challenge, limiting resources that could otherwise support students and educators. For years, charter schools have requested an increase in the pass-through rate to 85%, but the district has refused, leaving schools without the ability to negotiate for fair funding.

Another critical issue is that charter schools are not eligible for local bond funds. When the Oregon City School District passed a \$163 million bond for school improvements, none of that funding was available to charter schools, despite the fact that they serve the same student population. Schools that own their buildings struggle to afford necessary maintenance, safety upgrades, and long-term facility planning without access to these resources. Increasing the pass-through funding to 95% through HB 3444 would provide much-needed stability, ensuring that charter schools can continue offering high-quality education while maintaining safe and well-equipped learning environments.

Public education should be equitable, and charter schools deserve the same level of financial support as other public schools. I urge you to support HB 3444 to ensure fair funding for these vital institutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Becky Dawson