

Submitter: Erica Thompson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444  
House Committee On Education  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

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

As a parent of an Oregon public charter school student, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. HB 3444 will fix a deep disparity currently happening in Oregon schools: that Oregon public charter school students are essentially funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students. Public charter school students are public school students, and it's time to fund their education fairly.

I am writing to express my deep appreciation for the exceptional education my children, Mia and Ryder Szlavich, have received at City View Charter School. As a proud parent, I have witnessed firsthand the dedication of the teachers, the quality of academic programs, and the nurturing environment that has helped my children thrive.

Since enrolling at City View Charter School, my children have made remarkable progress. My daughter, Mia, has developed a love for science thanks to the hands-on EL style program, and my son, Ryder who has dyslexia, has gained confidence in reading with the support of his teachers. He jumped from a second grade reading level to a 5th grade reading level in one year! Their success is a direct result of the school's commitment to excellence, and I am truly grateful for the opportunities they have received.

However, despite the school's dedication, I know that funding constraints continue to present challenges because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. Additional financial support would allow City View to expand valuable programs, upgrade learning materials, enhance technology, and provide more resources for students and teachers. Investments in education are investments in our community's future, ensuring that every child has access to the tools they need to succeed.

I urge you to prioritize increased funding for City View so that it can continue to provide the high-quality education that benefits not only my children but all students.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our schools.

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, Erica Thompson