

Submitter: Natalie Schroeder
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, and an educator in an Oregon public charter school, 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 past time to fund their education fairly.

Though I have stories of success as a teacher, I would like to focus on my daughter today. This is her first year as a charter school student. For the last two years at a traditional school, she had dealt with a lack of help, specifically in the area of math. Last year she received 3 F's and a D for the four quarter grades. I went to the school asking for help many times. I talked to her teacher, as well as the principal asking for tutoring, different class options, or alternative work to help support her. There was nothing for her. I ended up buying a homeschool curriculum to help her.

This year at Logos Public Charter School, she is getting one on one help, access to tutors and a curriculum that allows for her to go at her own pace. The information she understands well she can go through quickly without waiting for her classmates to catch on, and the information she does not catch on to quickly, she has the option to spend extra time with support to understand it. Her math grade has been a solid B all year! Her confidence has soared and her anxiety around school has dissipated almost completely.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. 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,

Natalie Schroeder