

Submitter: John Barry  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

Dear Chair Neron and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 3444, which seeks to address the longstanding funding disparity faced by Oregon's public charter schools.

As a proud board member of Coburg Community Charter School (CCCS) for the past ten years and an equally proud parent of two CCCS alumni, I have witnessed firsthand the vital role that public charter schools play in Oregon's education system. They offer families alternative learning environments that foster academic excellence, innovation, and strong community engagement.

CCCS exemplifies the success of community-driven education, thriving through strong parental involvement, dedicated educators, and a rigorous curriculum. However, our ability to serve students is constrained by a funding model that provides only 80% of per-student State School Grant funds to Oregon's public charter schools, while requiring us to cover facilities, transportation, and essential services that district schools fund through additional revenue streams.

HB 3444 offers a fair solution by increasing access to state funding—without requiring new revenue—ensuring that all public school students receive equitable resources.

All students in Oregon's public education system deserve access to fairly funded public education options that meet their needs. HB 3444 is an important step in that direction.

Sincerely,  
John Barry  
Vice President, Coburg Community Charter School Board