

I am writing to you today as a dedicated advocate for quality education and as a concerned parent of four children that all attend our local charter school in Hillsboro, OR. We intentionally chose this school because it felt like a community where we could be known, that each of my kids would be given equal care and value, and as a parent, I could be involved in my kids' education by volunteering. Our charter schools provide an essential, high-quality education that equips children to become engaged citizens who contribute meaningfully to society. However, the current funding allocation of 85% places undue financial strain on these institutions, limiting their ability to provide the resources and opportunities that our students deserve. Increasing funding to 95% would be a transformative investment in our children, our schools, and the future of our community.

The financial gap that exists between traditional public schools and charter schools places charter institutions at a disadvantage when it comes to teacher salaries, classroom resources, extracurricular activities, and infrastructure improvements. With only 85% of the funding allocated per student, charter schools must make difficult budgetary decisions that often result in larger class sizes, outdated materials, and reduced student support services. Raising this funding to 95% would significantly improve the quality of education we provide, allowing for enhanced learning environments, competitive teacher salaries, and access to modern educational tools that are critical for student success.

The impact of well-funded charter schools extends far beyond the classroom. Our charter schools are designed not just to educate but to instill values of service, leadership, and civic responsibility in our students. These students go on to become local business owners, teachers, healthcare professionals, and community leaders who drive economic growth and social progress. By increasing financial support for our schools, we are directly investing in the development of individuals who will strengthen our local workforce, enhance our neighborhoods, and contribute to a thriving, sustainable community.

Furthermore, an increase in funding will reduce the financial burdens on families who rely on charter schools for high-quality education. Many families choose charter schools for their unique educational approaches, smaller class sizes, and specialized programs tailored to individual student needs. Providing adequate funding ensures that these schools can continue to offer these benefits without relying heavily on fundraising or outside donations, which can be unpredictable and unsustainable.

Education is the foundation of a prosperous society. By committing to an increase in funding for our charter schools, we are making a direct investment in the future leaders, innovators, and contributors of our community. I urge you to consider the long-term benefits of this change—not just for our schools, but for the entire state.

I appreciate your time and dedication to serving our community, and I hope you will take action to support this crucial investment in our children's future. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and explore ways to collaborate for the betterment of our education system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.