

Submitter: Kymberlee Lake

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

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

I am writing as a parent of an Oregon public charter school student in strong support of House Bill 3444, which seeks to address a glaring funding disparity between public charter schools and traditional district schools. Currently, charter school students are funded at around 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students—even though they are also public school students—and this inequity must be corrected.

In our family's case, finding the right charter school saved my child's life. The sense of belonging and support they found there made them feel that they truly fit in, an experience that changed everything for them. Like many other families, we initially tried a traditional public school setting but soon realized our child needed specialized attention that wasn't readily available. Whether students face physical, developmental, or mental health challenges, they deserve an environment that can meet those needs.

Unfortunately, Oregon's current funding model severely under-resources public charter schools. Many operate in outdated buildings, lack sufficient food security or transportation options, and struggle to provide much-needed mental health resources. HB 3444 will fix this ongoing inequity and ensure every public charter school student has fair access to the education and support they need to succeed.

I urge you to vote "yes" on HB 3444.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kymberlee Lake