

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 past time to fund their education fairly.

Almost every public charter school parent has a story as to why a public charter school became the right fit for their child and their family. Many families are put in the awful position of having to choose between the educational services and experience their child needs that only a public charter school provides, at the expense of other services that the state funds at traditional public schools, like transportation support, food security programs and more.

[My son is a first-grade student at Hope Chinese Charter school. He really likes this school because it allows him to speak Chinese, celebrate Chinese festivals, and learn traditional Chinese culture. Although he was born in the United States, by learning Chinese at school, he can better communicate with his grandparents and socialize with community children in English. He is proud to be able to speak two languages. Our whole family is also proud of his bilingual communication skills in both Chinese and English. During his two years at Hope Chinese Charter School, Ryan became more confident and happy, which brought great encouragement to our immigrant family.

However, we have to pick up and drop off the child to and from school ourselves because he doesn't have a school bus service. We have to spend over an hour on the road every day, which is very inconvenient. We are all very sad to think that our child will have to leave here to attend high school in the future, just because the teaching building is too small.

Lin zhang

03/07/2025



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Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. Many buildings are old and in need of upgrades, students can't access transportation services, food security programs are limited, and schools lack essential school supplies and mental health resources. 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,