

March 8th, 2025

House Education Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 3444 – Ensuring Equitable Funding for Public Charter Schools

Dear Chair and Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3444, which takes crucial steps to ensure equitable funding for public charter schools in Oregon. As a parent of two children attending Alliance Charter Academy, an in-person hybrid charter school in Oregon City, I have seen firsthand how valuable these schools are in providing flexibility, individualized learning, and a supportive educational environment that meets the diverse needs of students.

Alliance Charter Academy has been transformational for my children's education. The hybrid model allows for personalized instruction, helping them thrive in ways that traditional public schools would not. The smaller class sizes, dedicated teachers, and innovative curriculum have fostered their academic growth and confidence, providing a well-rounded education that supports both their learning styles and personal interests. However, despite their positive impact, charter schools often struggle with inadequate funding compared to traditional public schools, limiting their ability to expand services, hire more staff, or offer additional student resources.

HB 3444 is a much-needed step toward closing this funding gap by:

- Ensuring that public charter schools receive an equitable share of state, local, and federal funding, just like traditional public schools.
- Removing eligibility restrictions for Student Investment Account funding, allowing charter schools to better serve students from all backgrounds.
- Recognizing transportation costs for charter schools in the same way as district schools, ensuring students have fair access to their chosen schools.

This bill is not just about funding—it's about fairness and opportunity for all public school students, regardless of the type of school they attend. Charter schools like Alliance provide valuable educational choices for families, and they deserve the same level of support as traditional public schools.

I urge you to support HB 3444 to ensure that Oregon's public charter schools have the resources they need to continue offering high-quality education to students like mine. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kristofer Tanning  
Oregon City, Oregon