

Submitter: Gesine Abraham

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

I have been actively involved with Madrone Trail Charter School since it's inception. I was one of the founders, served several board terms, and have participated on a number of committees. The sponsoring district approved the charter due to wide public support for the program the school provides. There are waiting lists for most grades.

Throughout the entire life of the school, the biggest challenge has been the unequal pass through funding of 80%. It impacts all aspects of providing the service the school is chartered to provide, from securing and maintaining a facility to competitive teacher salaries. The charter school receives less funding, yet has to achieve outcomes as good as or better than the sponsoring district. Since charter schools are approved by the district to meet a recognized public need, and can be terminated by the district if they do not fulfil their contract, why should they not be funded equally? 95% pass through funding would make all the difference in the world between constantly struggling to survive and thriving as a public service to the community on a more equal footing with the other district schools.