

Submitter: Rachael McEachern  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

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 to express my strong support for House Bill 3444. This bill addresses a critical disparity in Oregon's education system: public charter school students currently receive only 48 cents on the dollar compared to their district school peers. These students are public school students, and it is long overdue to fund their education equitably.

Nearly every public charter school parent has a story about why this educational path became the right fit for their child. Many families began in traditional public schools but found their children's needs unmet—whether due to learning challenges requiring specialized attention, or physical, developmental, or mental health needs that traditional schools could not, or would not, accommodate.

For my family, Ridgeline Montessori Public Charter School has been transformative. One of the reasons I champion the charter school model is its ability to provide access to educational approaches typically found in private institutions. Supporting this bill will help sustain and expand this equitable model, ensuring that more children can benefit from these opportunities in the future.

The funding gap for charter schools extends beyond academics. It impacts access to essential programs that other students in our district rely on, such as summer food assistance, transportation services, and Oregon Health Plan (OHP) resources. This disparity leaves charter school students at a significant disadvantage.

Oregon's current school funding model has left public charter schools underfunded for far too long. Many schools operate in outdated facilities, lack transportation options, and struggle to provide adequate food security programs, school supplies, and mental health resources. By passing HB 3444, you have the opportunity to correct this inequity and provide the fair funding that public charter school students so urgently need.

I urge you to vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Rachael McEachern