

**Dear Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of HB3444. My name is Sam Wishart, and I am a first-grade teacher and K-2 instructional lead at City View Charter School in Hillsboro, Oregon. We've been a charter school in this community for 20 years, serving students from all backgrounds, regardless of need. Our school is currently operating a lottery system and has 250 students on our waitlist, a clear indication of the demand for the high-quality education we provide.

If you were to compare our school with other neighborhood schools in Hillsboro, the differences would be hard to spot. We utilize the same level of education, curricula, and face many of the same challenges as our neighboring public schools. However, one glaring disparity stands out — the compensation we receive as educators.

Despite having the same qualifications, experience, and dedication as our peers in public schools, teachers at City View Charter School make 15-20% less than those in the district. This financial disparity has a significant impact on our ability to retain high-quality educators. Many of my colleagues, despite their passion and commitment, struggle to make ends meet and are forced to take on second jobs just to survive. This should not be the reality for any teacher.

Despite this, our students continue to outperform their peers in neighboring public schools on standardized testing, proving that a lack of funding does not equate to a lack of dedication or capability. We achieve these results with fewer resources, yet our students consistently excel academically, a testament to the hard work and commitment of our staff.

We are proud to serve our students and our community, but the current funding model is not sustainable. It's inequitable to expect us to provide the same level of education with fewer resources, and it's unfair to ask our families to shoulder the burden through constant fundraising just to make up the difference. Not all families have the same financial means to contribute, which further exacerbates the inequality.

HB3444 is a critical step toward achieving fairness and equity in education. By increasing funding for charter schools, we ensure that all educators, regardless of the school type, are compensated fairly for the work they do. This will allow us to focus on what matters most — providing the best possible education for the children we serve.

Thank you for considering this important measure. I urge you to support HB3444 so that all students and educators in Oregon, regardless of whether they attend a charter or public school, have the resources they deserve to succeed.

Sincerely,  
Sam Wishart  
First-Grade Teacher & K-2 Instructional Lead  
City View Charter School, Hillsboro, Oregon

