

Submitter: Angie Obrist

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

I am advocating to pass the House Bill 3444. Over the last ten years, charter school enrollment has gone up, but funding relative to enrollment has decreased. During that time, funding for charter schools dropped to 48% of their district-run counterparts from 63% in 2013. That translates to \$6,000 less per student, and also contributes to a 21% gap in teacher compensation compared to district-run schools. Basically, my school district (Gresham-Barlow School District) is profiting off our students enrolled in charter schools, and this is not right. I feel that school choice is really important and charter schools offer students an alternative to learning styles that best fit them and can help them succeed in their education and beyond.

As a parent, I had 3 children who did not do well in my neighborhood public school setting and teaching style. I was able to enroll them in Gresham Arthur Academy, and they learned the basics in their first year there, which, previously, were needing to repeat a grade and not able to keep up with their peers in education.

As an employee of Gresham Arthur Academy, now for over 6 years, I feel the deficit in my wages as a school secretary. I LOVE my job and serving this school community, so I have endured the lesser pay and benefits than my public school counterparts receive. I would really appreciate the equal pay and opportunities if this bill passes and we receive equal funding for charter schools, students and staff.

Thank you for reading and considering my testimony on behalf of HB3444.

Angie Obrist