

Submitter: Valerie Comstock
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

To whom to may concern,

As a Intervention Specialist at Gresham Arthur Academy, I strongly urge you to support House Bill 3444. Oregon's public charter schools serve a critical role in Oregon's education system. Our small school setting allows students to thrive academically because they are given the attention they need to know when to intervene or be challenged. Our small school fosters a sense of community and builds a strong home to school connection. We have had multiple students come to our school after being in a neighborhood public school and test multiple grade levels behind. With our curriculum, amount of intervention and ability to know each student individually, these students are now thriving and are at, or making progress towards, grade level.

Oregon's public charter schools can only access 80% of State School Grant funds, and have no access to the number of other revenue streams that districts receive. Over the last ten years, charter school enrollment has gone up, but funding relative to enrollment has decreased. This translates to about \$6,000 lesson per student. Our students deserve more than that. Our district should not be profiting off our students. It also contributes to a 21% teacher compensation compared to district-run schools. We, as teachers, deserve more than that. We have also lost a crucial teaching position this year because of funding.

All students in Oregon's public education system should have access to fairly funded public education options that meet their needs. On behalf of our teachers, staff, and most importantly students, please support HB 3444.

Thank you,
Valerie Comstock
Intervention Specialist