

Submitter: Emily Brink
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

To whom it may concern,

I am asking that you pass HB 3444 so that all Oregon students receive the funding that they deserve and that I, as a teacher, am able to provide my students with what they need to grow and excel in the classroom.

It is known that students who attend charter schools receive less funding than those that attend a neighborhood school. While this may seem like a small thing at first glance, this is how it has impacted my students and myself. My students do not always have access to the resources they need. We as a charter school work under a tighter budget, which means we have a smaller staff than what we need. When we have the correct number of staff members, we can do the job we are wanting to do and help our students soar. When we have less staff, students are unable to receive as much individualized instruction and attention. Parents are crying out to schools to support their children, and we are here to do it, but we need the support to do it well. When students fall behind in school, it can lead to a greater struggle post school. Our charter schools help provide students with an option for a school that supports their needs and helps set them up for success from the beginning.

Less funding also prevents me from being able to help my students be exposed to and prepared for science in middle school as much as I would like because our budget does not allow for the necessary lab materials. My students get exposed to labs because I pay for them out of my own pocket. Less funding forces me to pay for items in my classroom such as tissues, supplies, and more. This is not fair. This is not sustainable. For the sake of students all over Oregon, please pass HB 3444.

Emily Brink