

Submitter: Wendy Ward  
On Behalf Of: Sand Ridge Charter School  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in full support of House Bill 3444, which modifies the amount that school districts allocate from the State School Fund to public charter schools. I have read the bill in its entirety and firmly believe it is a step in the right direction.

My son began kindergarten at Sand Ridge Charter School in Lebanon, Oregon, and he is currently enrolled as a third grader for the 2024-2025 school year. We are incredibly grateful for the option to send him to a charter school. I believe he receives more individualized attention to his educational needs in this setting than he might in a traditional public school.

I strongly advocate for charter schools to receive 95% of the Average Daily Membership (ADM) funding from the State School Fund. Through student testing, charter schools have consistently demonstrated superior academic performance, surpassing public school scores and even exceeding state benchmarks.

Charter schools should have the same access to local, state, and federal education funding as public schools and should be able to retain a fair portion of those funds. Additionally, I believe charter schools should be permitted to offer transportation services and qualify for state reimbursement grants.

Currently, my son's school does not provide transportation, which is a significant limitation. If enough students could benefit from this service, I would hope the school would consider implementing it.

Finally, I see a pressing need for charter schools to offer higher-grade levels. With increased access to funding, I hope that the school my son attends can continue to support his education through higher grades, ensuring that he can remain in the same supportive environment.

Please consider reducing the significant funding gap between charter and public schools. Passing this bill will promote educational equity for all students.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Ward  
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