

House Committee On Education
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the Committee:

As a parent of an Oregon public charter school student, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. HB 3444 will fix a deep disparity currently happening in Oregon schools: that Oregon public charter school students are essentially funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students. Public charter school students are public school students, and it's past time to fund their education fairly.

Almost every public charter school parent has a story as to why a public charter school became the right fit for their child. Many started out in traditional public schools, but couldn't receive the education they deserved, often due to learning challenges that required specialized attention beyond what a public school classroom could provide, or physical, developmental, or mental health challenges that public schools simply couldn't, or wouldn't, accommodate for.

For me, it was the desire to give my son an education experience that was well-rounded and rooted into developing the whole child. That led us to enroll our son at the Portland Village School, one of only two public charter Waldorf schools in Oregon. Through the Waldorf method, our son has learned more than the traditional academic knowledge expected in school, but has also learned to appreciate the role that art, creativity, story-telling, and community has in the learning process. My son has blossomed this year in his second year at the school. I am so grateful as a parent to have charter schools be an option for our family. Every parent should have the right and freedom of educational choice for their children!

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. Many buildings are old and in need of upgrades, students can't access transportation services, food security programs are limited, and schools lack essential school supplies and mental health resources. By passing HB 3444, you can fix this ongoing disparity and provide fair funding for public charter school students who deeply need it.

Please vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,
Bethany Campbell

