

Submitter: Noam C  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444  
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 an Oregon public charter school student, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. HB 3444 will fix a deep injustice currently happening in Oregon schools: that Oregon public charter school students are effectively funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students. Students at Ridgeline Montessori Charter School are public school students, and it's past time to fund our education fairly.

Each student here at Ridgeline Montessori Public Charter School has a story about why this school has made a positive difference in their life. 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.

The reason why my charter school is important to me is that in February 2022 I lost control. That year, I was involved in countless traumatic events that broke my mental state. I lost my house and my belongings to a house fire. I came to school that day from our rental house located a few blocks away. I tried to focus on schoolwork, but the pain of my losses was too great. I tried to finish my assignment about the science of space, but it all came crashing down. Before I could realize, tears and sweat from all the stress I was under began to run down my face. But then, like an angel, my assistant teacher came and comforted me. After this, she called our school counselor, who unfortunately no longer works here.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. This directly impacts me as a student. 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.

Sincerely,  
Noam