

Submitter: Hope m.
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:

My name is Hope, and I am 13 years old. I attend Ridgeline Montessori Public Charter School. I am writing to you about House Bill 3444. One of my biggest concerns is about transportation.

Ridgeline does not have an official bus system, or any official way to bring them to school and drop them off at home when school is finished. Currently, people have to catch rides with friends, walk or bike, and a majority ride the city bus. When students ride on the city bus, it can impact how fast they can get home and also impact their grades. If we had an official bus system, then students would not have to guess if they were going to get home or not.

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, Hope