

Submitter: Birch K
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.

Ridgeline is important to me because of all the support it offers. I suffer from severe anxiety and panic disorder, so it's really hard for me to come to school or present in front of the class. The teachers give me other options though, if presenting to the class is too hard i have the option to present to the teachers. The teachers help me slowly build confidence so that maybe one day i can present in front of people without fear. With my ADHD it's hard to focus during class so I can get extensions on my work or be reminded to start on something every so often. If the funding for Montessori schools was cut I'm not sure what I would do. So please support (something) bill 3444.

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, Birch