

Submitter: Janel McPherson
On Behalf Of: Coburg Community Charter School
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter in support of House Bill 3444 that provides greater funding for charter schools state wide. As one of the founders of Coburg Community Charter School I know the arduous yet rewarding journey of piecing together a thriving charter school for families in our district. Oregon Charter Schools serve an important role in Oregon's educational system. They collaborate with traditional public schools sharing best practices, improving educational outcomes, and offering families more choices within the public education system.

Currently, Charter schools only have access to 80% of State School Grant funds yet lack access to other revenue streams that district schools receive. This creates funding disparities that place financial burdens on charter schools and limit resources for students, teachers, and classroom materials. As you know public charter schools are responsible for facility costs while district-run facilities are financially supported through bonds. Also, charter schools pay the same high PERS rate as school districts without the opportunity to bond their pension rates as many of our districts do. With adequate funding charter schools will be better equipped to continue to pilot new teaching methods that benefit and strengthen public education. HB3444 addresses current funding disparities and gives fairness to all Oregon public education students.

Sincerely,
Janel McPherson