

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

March 11, 2025

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

My husband and I moved from Bangladesh to Oregon City because of the opportunity for my kids to attend Springwater Environmental Science Charter School. I wanted my kids to have the unique and high quality educational experience that the school offers. Because of this school, Oregon City has more diversity, development and vibrance, having drawn two additional working, home owning parents who contribute to the community's tax revenue and local businesses.

Unfortunately, due to low funding, the facilities and support staffing for Springwater are well behind those of mainstream public schools. While there is a certain amount of this "lesser than" that we can tolerate (as we recognize the additional essential needs that mainstream public schools fill), gaps in playground and facility safety and security, transportation accessibility (which limits some working parents from being able to consider a charter school), and teacher compensation are troubling, given security risks, community needs, and teacher's rights to quality of life.

Please vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,

Anna Williams