

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 a parent of two sons and an assistant teacher at Madrone Trail Public Charter school, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. The funding that HB3444 would be life changing to our children, our faculty and our school community.

Each year our school fights to get basic needs met. We sacrifice the education and wellbeing of our children and community when we opt to take funding away from public charter schools. In the last four years, since I've worked at our school, they have had to remove our science/math teacher position from our middle school, refuse an assistant to our reading interventionist, heating has been compromised in almost every classroom and space heaters are used to keep the children warm, and we've had to tear down our old dilapidated playground and let the children know that we do not have enough funding to build a new one. Every year our administration has to make hard decisions on how to keep our school running.

Our school community is filled with loving and involved parents who collectively volunteer thousands of hours each year. They work in connection with the teachers to provide our children with festivals and our school with community based funding. Yet, our school does not have adequate bus services to meet all of its students and for some families it is a daily struggle to get their kids to school. Our faculty is dedicated to providing an education that addresses the whole child, providing classes like handwork (knitting, crocheting, weaving, sewing and more), spanish (from K-8th), gardening, woodwork, games and a curriculum that is filled with art, culture and meaning. Yet, our teachers get paid less than any other teacher in the Medford School District.

I feel blessed to be part of our school community and grateful that my children are receiving such a loving and intentional education. 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.

Thank you,

Megan Shaw