

Submitter: Brittany Shephard
On Behalf Of: Gresham Arthur Academy
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

To whom it may concern;

My son has attended Gresham Arthur Academy for the last 4 years and I have also been PTA president for the past 3 years. In our time and this school my son has grown leaps and bounds not only academically but personally as well. I truly don't believe my son would be the child he is, had he not been attending this school. On the flip side, as PTA president I see the amount of fundraising that we have to do simply because we do not get enough funding from the state. And sometimes it's for the simplest things that should absolutely be covered by regular funding and things that the parents shouldn't have to bring in more money for. Parents at a regular public school don't have to do nearly as much fundraising as we do, and when they do it gets to be for fun things for students.

As a parent of an Oregon public charter school student, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. HB 3444 will fix a deep disparity currently happening in Oregon schools. Over the last ten years, charter school enrollment has gone up, but funding relative to enrollment has decreased. Public charter school students are public school students, and it is far past time to fund their education fairly.

I urge you to please please vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,
Brittany Shephard