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On Behalf Of: Madrone Trail  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

To whom it may concern,

Oregon public charter school students are essentially funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students. This is in large part because Oregon's public charter schools can only access 80% of State School Grant funds and have no access to the number of other revenue streams that districts receive. This dynamic has created a huge disparity in funding. Current funding disparities place unnecessary financial burdens on charter schools, limiting resources for students, teachers, and classroom materials.

Oregon's public charter schools serve a critical role in Oregon's education system. Expanding access to state funding for public charter schools is essential to ensuring educational equity, fostering innovation, and strengthening Oregon's entire public school system. Every student—regardless of where they attend school—deserves access to quality resources, experienced teachers, and opportunities for success. Public charter schools offer families more choices within the public education system, allowing students to find a learning environment that best fits their needs.

As a charter school teacher, I can see how valuable our education is by noting that my students' average test scores are higher than the districts average test scores. But the most important thing to me is that my students love to come to school and get upset when they are sick because they have to stay home and miss out. It is really hard to try and deliver a quality education with one hand tied behind our backs. We lose valuable time that we could be using to prepare our lessons but instead have to spend focused on fundraising to meet the deficit that we inherit from the district that takes 20% of our funds. It's not fair to us or our students.

Thanks for listening.

This could make a huge difference for all of our students.

Mateo Tryllium