

Submitter: Laurel Briggs

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

Our family has been the very fortunate recipients of public Charter school in Oregon. Our children have thrived in uncountable ways. The Waldorf approach to education has been fundamental to my older daughter's now academic and life success. She struggled with reading and we're forever grateful for the nurturing and supportive environment the school was able to give her to meet her needs. We've been actively involved with the school for the last 8 years assisting with fundraising efforts to keep the school going. It's been a big struggle. Our school is in dire need of a new roof, among other more standard amenities. Through donations and grants we have limped along, some years better than others, but are often one big line item away from collapse. The school has also been a gathering place for children that have not "made it" in the regular public system. We take on many children with behavior issues and/or disabilities. My daughter's class is most 50% full of such children. This puts an added strain on resources. Many of these children find they thrive at Madrone Trail but often at the expense of stretched resources and teachers. Our district only provides our school with 80% per student and provides frankly very little support for keeping that 20% per child. We've lobbied for many years to increase that number, even as much as 5% with no success. A mandate to provide 95% would be a complete game changer for our school. It is an incredibly special place that has literally saved the lives and futures of many troubled children. Please consider our plea. It is honestly just what is just and fair. Thank you.