

Submitter: Brett Hudson
On Behalf Of: Redmond Proficiency Academy
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

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

As the Facilities and Transportation Manager at Redmond Proficiency Academy, I urge you to support House Bill 3444. Oregon's public charter schools serve a critical role in Oregon's education system. Many of the students we serve were unable to be effectively educated, for a variety of reasons, in district schools. Public charter schools are committed to educational innovation, providing personalized educational opportunities for our students, and emphasizing equity and autonomy to ultimately transform the lives of young people.

Unfortunately, Oregon law shortchanges public charter school students. By passing HB 3444, we can fix the outdated issues with Oregon's school funding model and provide fair funding for public charter school students.

Many Oregon public charter schools receive only a portion of State School Grant funds, as well as limited access to the number of additional revenue streams that districts receive. There is a clear disparity in funding between charter schools and traditional public schools. A recent report by ECONorthwest found that Oregon public charter schools receive less than half the funding of their district counterparts. Over the last ten years, Redmond Proficiency Academy has seen the enrollment increase, but funding relative to enrollment has decreased. Without access to an equitable share of the SSF Grant and other streams of revenue that feed into the District-run schools, this gap will only continue to grow.

At my school, this funding gap is evident in funding opportunities for facility improvements, State matching bond grants, transportation funding, State and Federal funding tied to District Operations, and Utility grants. Charter schools often have to be sponsored by the District for funding which cuts into their available funding making it difficult for both entities.

Passing HB 3444 will help fix ongoing disparities allowing charter schools to provide valuable services to students. All students in Oregon's public education system should have access to fairly funded public education options that meet their needs. On behalf of our teachers, staff, and most importantly students, please support HB 3444.

Thank you for your work in supporting students education.

Sincerely,

Brett Hudson
Redmond Proficiency Academy
Facilities Manager