

Submitter: Brandon Keibler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444
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 an Oregon public charter school student, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. HB 3444 will fix a deep disparity that currently exists in Oregon schools: that Oregon public charter school students are essentially funded at 58 cents per dollar compared to district students. Public charter school students are public school students, and they deserve to have their education funded fairly.

All of us charter school families have our own reasons for choosing a charter school. I'm sure you have already heard them all. I have seen kids find their way to our school, and thrive there, after struggling and failing in the traditional school system. I have also seen it work the other way around. But that just highlights the true value that charter schools bring to the broader educational system. They provide options; a chance for families to find a learning style that works for their child, and provide opportunity to those who otherwise wouldn't have much of one.

My 8 year old son attends City View Charter School; an expeditionary learning school located in Hillsboro, where he is thriving academically and socially. We chose to enroll in City View because he struggles to sit still. The more active learning provided by the expeditionary model gives him what he needs to remain focused and engaged throughout the day. I know that he would not have been able to achieve what he has in a mainstream setting.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. Ours is struggling, and we are not alone. Many buildings are old and in need of upgrades, students can't access transportation services, food security programs are limited, and schools lack essential school supplies and mental health resources. 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,
- Brandon Keibler