

**March 12, 2025**

House Committee On Education  
Oregon State Legislature

My name is **Cecile Enright**, and I serve as the **CEO of River's Edge Academy Charter School**. I am submitting testimony in strong **support** of HB 3444, which seeks to modify the percentage of State School Fund allocations that school districts must provide to public charter schools that are not virtual public charter schools.

As a charter school leader, I witness firsthand the increasing challenges of sustaining quality education while facing rising operational costs, particularly in **salaries and benefits for highly qualified staff**. The funding levels we receive directly impact our ability to **recruit and retain** experienced teachers and support personnel. Without equitable funding adjustments, charter schools struggle to offer **competitive compensation**, making it challenging to retain the educators and support staff necessary to provide high-quality instruction and services to our students.

Additionally, we are responsible for their own **facilities, maintenance, and specialized programs**, expenses that traditional public schools do not bear in the same way. The existing funding structure does not fully account for these financial burdens, placing charter schools at a **systemic disadvantage** despite serving a diverse population of students, many of whom require additional academic and social support.

HB 3444 represents a crucial step toward **fair and sustainable funding** that allows charter schools to meet the same educational standards and student needs as traditional public schools. I urge the committee to **pass HB 3444** to ensure that all public school students receive the resources they need to succeed regardless of the type of school they attend.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to supporting Oregon's students and educators.

**Sincerely,**

**Cecile Enright**

CEO

River's Edge Academy Charter School

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