

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:

Please vote yes on HB 3444.

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 currently happening in Oregon schools: that Oregon public charter school students are essentially funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students. Public charter school students are public school students, and it is past time to fund their education fairly.

Our daughter would not have the opportunity to fully communicate with my parents because my parents only know minimal English. They were not able to communicate with any one of them before Roslin started at Hope in Fall of 2021. Since then, Roslin can chat with them, and at times, translate English in both writing and spoken communication, to them. This not only allow them to communicate but also grew closer because of a mutual cultural communality. I have never dreamed that my children, having born and growing up in America, would ever be able to have a such a bond with my parents. However, the mission at HOPE Chinese Charter school has enabled that. I am looking forward to have my other two children to join HOPE and building a bond with their grandparents like Roslin.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. 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.

Thank you,

Ka C. Wong, PhD