

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:

Thank you for your considering Bill 3444. I am writing this letter to ask you to vote YES. Our family is so lucky to have attended two charter schools over the years, each of which met a distinct family need that our local public school did not. We are all aware of the disparity that currently exists in Oregon schools: Oregon public charter school students are essentially funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students, even though public charter school students are public school students. The students, families, and hardworking staff pay a high price to make up this deficit, and the time to rectify this is now.

The charter middle school our oldest child attends offers an amazing environment, flexibility in learning, passionate staff and students, student autonomy and project driven learning, and our child still does very well on state tests and gets great grades. We love our charter school! In a given day, our child practices pre-algebra, language arts, science, social studies, farming, caring for animals, art, participating in music, sometimes cooking, community volunteering, among many other pursuits. This fosters an autonomy, engagement, and leadership in our child that was not present at other schools. My child is having a middle school experience I would have dreamed of. But this wonderful school is underfunded, as all Oregon public charter schools are. Unfortunately, the students, staff, and families pay the price. As more families are choosing charter school education for their families in an evolving/shifting education model, the importance of equalizing charter school funding is more important than ever before. By passing HB 3444, we 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 for all of your work,

Tiffany Wyatt
(she/her)
Medford, Oregon