

Submitter: David Hendrick
On Behalf Of: Bend International School
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

Thank you for taking this bill into consideration:

You know, one of the most wonderful things about being part of a community—whether it’s a neighborhood, a school, or a family—is the way we support each other. And today, I want to take a moment to talk about something truly important: the future of our children and the role of charter schools in shaping that future.

Right now, Oregon Bill HB 3444 is up for discussion. This bill seeks to modify the percentage of funds that school districts must allocate from the State School Fund to public charter schools that are not virtual public charter schools. It’s an important step toward ensuring that all students, regardless of where they choose to learn, have access to the resources they need to thrive.

Education is one of the greatest gifts we can give to our children. Every child is unique, with their own talents, dreams, and ways of learning. Charter schools offer families a choice—a chance to find the learning environment that best fits their child’s needs. They provide innovation, flexibility, and a commitment to excellence that benefits not only students but entire communities.

That’s why it’s so important that we continue to support and fund charter schools. HB 3444 represents an opportunity to strengthen these schools and ensure that they receive fair funding to serve their students effectively. When we invest in education, we invest in the future. We invest in children who will grow up to be thinkers, leaders, and kind neighbors. We invest in teachers who are passionate about helping each child reach their full potential. And we invest in communities that thrive because their schools are strong.

If there’s ever a moment when you wonder if your support makes a difference, I want to reassure you—it absolutely does. Your advocacy, your voice, and your belief in the power of education help create opportunities for children who need them the most.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Thank you for caring about our children, our schools, and our future. Together, we can make a difference—one child, one school, one community at a time.