

Dear Chair Huron and Members of the Education Committee,

I am providing testimony in support of HB 3444 and asking for your support in its passage. I have two children in Bend International School, a public charter school in Bend, OR. The school does a terrific job with academics, social emotional learning, a Spanish program, and teaching students to be better citizens of this country and world. But we are constantly having to do fundraisers in order to keep the school running due to our limited funding.

All public school students in Oregon deserve the same investment in their education, whether attending a public charter school or public district-run school. Right now students in public charter schools receive 48% of the funding that their peers in district-run school receive, an unsettling fact from a recent report by ECONorthwest. My child's education is worth more than 48 cents on the dollar.

Our state's initial - and now outdated - charter school legislation is not in line with our state's current priorities.

- It diverts funding for early education and intervention, with K - 8 students receiving only 80% of their intended per pupil funding.
- It diverts funding for our historically underserved communities, with less than half of the intended state weighed funds flowing through to serve those children.
- It blocks access to federal funding, which is specifically intended to serve historically underserved students. This includes no access to IDEA, Title I, and Title III.

I urge you as a constituent and as a parent to support HB 3444, have it referred to committee, and ultimately vote in support of this very necessary fix in our public education funding.

With Appreciation,

Su-Wen Chen