

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

SUPPORT HB 3444: My Daughter Deserves the Same Funding as Her Friends that go to the Neighborhood School!

Dear Chair Huron and Members of the Education Committee,

I support HB 3444, and I am asking for your support in its passage. My name is Jessica Mardock, and my family specifically chose to go to a charter school because of the small class sizes, the diverse education, the culture, and the opportunities it provides our daughter. As a Kindergartener, she is already learning to speak Spanish, she has learned about multiple different cultures while learning to read, do math, and enjoy science! Our teachers are amazing and provide a well-rounded education for our kids.

I was very sad this year to learn that my daughter and her school do not receive the same amount of funds in support of her education as those students who go to a regular public school. 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, and my tax dollars should go to where my daughter goes.

Our state's initial - and now outdated - charter school legislation is not in line with our state's current priorities.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

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

Sincerely,

Jessica RD Mardock