

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:

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's past time to fund their education fairly.

Almost every public charter school parent has a story as to why a public charter school became the right fit for their child. Many started out in traditional public schools, but couldn't receive the education they deserved, often due to learning challenges that required specialized attention beyond what a public school classroom could provide, or physical, developmental, or mental health challenges that public schools simply couldn't, or wouldn't, accommodate for.

After homeschooling my child during Kindergarten and 1st grade because of the pandemic, I went to look at schools in the area to find schools that would be a good fit for my child. My child is bright and neurodivergent, and he needed smaller class sizes. City View Charter ended up being the perfect fit for my child. Their EL curriculum helps him to dig deep into topics. They also are able to do lots of field work (field trips) to further investigate. The things he has learned have been amazing. He is able to grow and learn. The support he has had is incredible. The school even goes on an overnight trip. The community and collaboration at this school is not like you would find at a regular school. The kids are more of a family than just a class. I recommend our charter school to everyone I meet. I am excited now because his younger brother attends, and starting this fall his younger sister will be attending City View as well. I want our school to continue to be able to offer this amazing unique learning experience, but funding is continuing to make it difficult. Please help our school and so many other amazing charter schools by passing HB 3444.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. By passing HB 3444, you 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,

Mary Grace Goldenmeister