

Submitter: Brian Fitzpatrick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

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. My name is Brian Fitzpatrick and I have two children that currently attend Bend International School, a public charter school in Bend, OR. I chose to enroll them in this charter school because of the International focus on global issues and the foreign language immersion. They both are becoming fluent in Spanish as a second language and they have prospered through the tailored curriculum they receive at Bend International 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 schools 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Our state's initial - and now outdated - charter school legislation is not in line with our state's current priorities.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 Sincerely,

Brian Fitzpatrick