

Dear Chair Huron, and Members of the Education Committee,

I am providing testimony in support of HB3444 and asking for your support in its passage. My 11 year-old son attends Bend International School (BIS) which is a public charter school that supports all learners through an inclusive model that helps all students thrive. While he struggled in the traditional public school setting, he is now flourishing in the BIS environment.

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 and district run schools receive call, an unsettling fact from recent reports by Eco Northwest. My child's education is worth more than 48 cents on the dollar.

- Our states initial and now outdated charter school legislation is not in line with our state's current priorities.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 under deserved communities, with less than half of the intended state, weighted funds flowing through to serve those children.
- It blocks access to federal funding, which is specifically intended to serve historically under serves students. This includes no access to IDEA, Title 1, and Title 111.

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.

Thanking you in advance for your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Alison Gardner