



OREGON COALITION OF COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

To: House Committee on Rules

From: Iris Maria Chavez, on behalf of the Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools

Date: April 21, 2025

Re: HB 3953, Support

I write to you on behalf of the Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools, our state's charter support organization and are a coalition of community-based, public charter schools representing all corners of our state. We represent approximately 26,000 public school students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade, operating in all regions of the state.

We strongly support HB 3953 and its intent to provide a direct pathway to charter school authorization with the State Board of Education (SBOE) for our state's federally recognized tribes. Oregon is unique in our process for authorizing public charter schools, it remains one of very few states to *not* provide a direct pathway to charter authorization through a state entity (be it a state board of education or specific state charter commission.) However, Oregon law does provide for the SBOE to authorize and provide oversight to public charter schools under special circumstances. Currently, the state has oversight authority for 4 public charter schools. We, ORC3S, know from our experience that the authorizing and oversight process with the SBOE is robust and has led to decades of success with these public charter schools.

Also, we believe that as federally recognized tribes in Oregon it is appropriate for the legislature to consider the unique government to government relationship tribes have with the state for the purposes of this legislation. Supporting this effort, HB 3953, will provide students from federally recognized tribes access to an educational option that is best suited for their learning and their community priorities.

We urge you to support HB 3953 and welcome the opportunity to rethink how Oregon authorizes and provides oversight to public charter schools.