

Subject: Please pass SB 819

Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee,

Tuesday, April 7th, SB 819 will be before the Senate Committee on Education and I urge you to please pass this measure. The passing of this measure would ensure that all of Oregon's public school children have equitable access to funding to be able to receive an outstanding education.

I have two children, one that currently attends Sherwood Charter School and one that completed 8th grade at Sherwood Charter School and now attends Sherwood High School. Both of my children have had an excellent education at Sherwood Charter School and my high school student continues to excel at Sherwood High School as a straight A, honor roll student. I credit that to the strong academics she received at Sherwood Charter School.

While Sherwood Charter School has done a great job in educating their students in their 10 year history, there has always been a struggle due to lack of funding. Having served on the School Board of Directors for many years I have seen first-hand the struggles that face Charter Schools each and every year in their budgeting process. We operate on only 80% of State School Funding. There are also funds that as a Charter School we don't have access to, so in all reality we operate on far less than 80% of the average public school. One of the largest struggles we face is maintaining our good quality teachers. While we are able to hire great teachers we also face losing these great teachers year after year due to not being able to pay them a comparable salary to what they would be receiving from a regular public school. Passing Senate Bill 819 and receiving 95% of State School Funding, would allow us to offer more comparable salaries to our teachers. In addition to salaries, we would also be able to look at other staffing options like teacher aids and reading specialists.

I thank you for your time and respectfully ask you to consider the needs of the thousands of Charter School students that this bill effects. Charter School students are public school students and do deserve equal treatment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Young".

Kim Young