

Subject: Senate Bills 819 and 820

Dear Senator Dembrow,

I'm writing regarding Senate Bills 819 and 820 pertaining to equitable funding for our public charter schools. Please vote to pass this important bill.

My family and I live in Parkrose and up until the middle of last year, our daughter attended Prescott Elementary. We made the move to Trillium Charter School in North Portland because of their democratic teaching and learning styles, service-learning model, and their willingness to assist us in accommodating for her TAG qualification. She has thrived at Trillium.

The disparity in funding between public and public charter schools is surprising. In a quote from the Chalkboard Project study, "While 4.7 percent of public school students attended charter schools in 2012-13, those schools operated with only 3.3 percent of the public funds dedicated to education statewide." Wow. How can this continue?

Parents of Public Charters aren't asking for additional funding for our students, we are simply requesting a shift of about 3% of the statewide K-12 budget to "follow the students for whom those funds are intended", which would represent less than 1% of the budget of Portland Public Schools. We want to ensure our daughter and her fellow students at Trillium Charter School receive 95% of all local, federal and state funds.

We certainly hope you will do the right thing and pass this bill. While my husband and I will be working tomorrow, we are excited that our daughter, Charlotte, will be in Salem tomorrow for the hearing. It is our hope she will have the good opportunity to witness the fairness of our legislative system.

Many thanks and thank you for your representation,

Jennifer Springsteen
Portland, OR 97220