

Subject: Please support SB 819 and SB 820

Hello Mr. Dembrow,

This is the first time I have ever written a letter to my representative. I'm writing as constituent in your District 23, and as a parent whose child attends Emerson Charter School in District 17.

According to a 2015 study conducted by EcoNorthwest, "*Oregon public charter schools in 2012-13 received less public funding on a per student basis than their district-run counterparts...42% less funding...\$5,000 less per student!*"

I urge you to support SB 819 to provide charter schools the financial support they need to continue to do their work. At our school parents must spend an inordinate amount of time fundraising to help the school make up the deficit from lack of state funding. I would love to see all of that parent involvement be put toward the children directly rather than fundraising for the school. Charter schools help ease congestion in our public neighborhood schools, as well as provide unique learning environments for children who may not excel in the public school environment. My daughter absolutely loves the constructivist and democratic approach of Emerson. She is being taught HOW to learn, and to love the process!

Diversity is critical to any human or ecological system...I feel that SB 820 would help mitigate the issue we face with appropriate representation of cultural diversity within our charter schools.

Please support SB 819 and SB 820, and urge your colleagues on the Education Committee to do so as well.

Thank you,
Tiare Sheller
Portland, OR 97206