

Subject: Please support SB 819 and SB 820

Hello Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I'm writing as constituent in 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 have seen first hand the excellent work that Emerson and other charter schools do, and I urge you to support SB 819 to provide them the financial support they need to continue to do their work.

I also have experienced first hand how difficult it is to attract and maintain minority students to Emerson, and 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 Senate Committee on Education to do so as well.

Thank you,
Nathan Heldt-Sheller
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