

**Subject: parent letter supporting SB 819**

Hello,

I am writing to encourage you to **support SB 819**. Supporting **SB 819** would require ZERO “new revenue”. It would simply require a “shift” of funding. It would let the funds follow the children for whom they are intended. **SB 819** would legally ensure that public charter schools would receive 95% of state, local, and federal public funds (leaving 5%, a typical administrative rate, at the sponsoring district). In 2013-2014 Oregon public charter schools received 42% (5,000) less public funding on a per student than their district run counterparts. This data came from a 2015 study conducted by EcoNorthwest, as commissioned by the Chalkboard Project.

I am a parent of 2 children at The Emerson School which is a charter school in Portland. The Emerson School has consistently maintained a Level 5 on the Oregon Report Card which is the highest school rating in Portland schools. Operating a high quality program with such inequitable funding puts undo strain on Emerson's leadership; it makes attracting, retaining and honoring the teaching staff that much more difficult; and it makes long-term planning around facilities, programs and services nearly impossible.

Please **support SB 819** and urge your colleagues on the Senate Education Committee to support SB 819 when it comes up in committee. **SB 819** would shift LESS than 1% of the state K-12 budget, yet would make the world of difference to our children in public charter schools.

Thank you for your support and consideration,  
Erika Van Patten  
Portland, OR