

Rebecca Roth, Salem, OR

VOTE YES on SB819 INCREASES CHOICE for PARENTS and STUDENTS

Money is not being directed to charter schools in high enough percentage. Students in charter schools receive only \$5000 per student, which is about ½ of what is allotted for students in the union-controlled schools.

Funding schools that are parent-controlled increases the choices those parents can make for their children.

Students I have talked with have indicated that they want to access charter schools that teach things the union-controlled schools don't teach. These are American children who dream of accessing education outside of what is decided for them by the union-controlled schools.

The state does not meet the needs of all students through a one-size-fits-all approach, nor does it meet the needs of industry. Students in union-controlled schools are pushed toward academic achievement, regardless for the need in society for acquisition of skills in specialized areas.

We are lacking training in a variety of disciplines. Because of the push toward academics we are becoming a third-world nation in many arenas. There are things we used to produce that we do not produce any more, and we are not even training young people in those disciplines.

At least charter schools expand the choices available. We would see even more freedom of choice if we would give a voucher to parents that they could use to meet the educational needs of their child without the middleman of the state deciding what are the limited choices available.

The model we have gone to with state-controlled education does not take advantage of free-market principles, and are based on the failed outcome-based models that Sweden put out an international alert on in the 1990s. Why is Oregon still mired in those failed ideas? Why did not the state allow the students in the outcome-based pilot school to pursue their lawsuit against the state of Oregon for lack of education? We must stop failed models, and pursue excellence.