

Johanna Norton
1332 NE Liberty St.
Portland, OR 97211

The Honorable Chip Shields
State Senator
State Capitol, S-421
Salem, OR 97310

April 7, 2015

Dear Senator Shields,

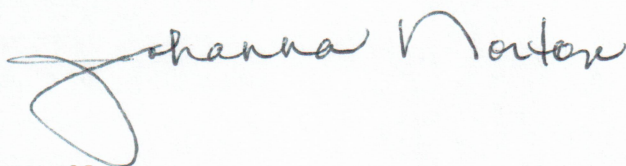
I am a parent of two children in the Portland Public School District, and they both attend Trillium Public Charter School. I urge your support for SB 819, which would provide more equitable funding for students in our public charter schools. I also hope you will support SB 820, which would allow public charter schools to prioritize underserved populations in the lottery; similar changes are already being made for district-run schools.

Senate Bill 819:

- is about equity; whether my children attend a district-run public school or a public charter school, their education is equally valuable, and as worthy of public investment.
- would *not* require any new revenue; it would shift about 3% of the statewide K-12 budget to *follow the students* for whom those funds are intended.
- would enable us to attract and retain great educators. Year after year, we lose fantastic teachers because they can't afford to stay. Last year, Trillium lost its *entire* lower school staff — nine teachers — and several upper school teachers and adjunct staff as well. My children suffer when turn-over is high and our best teachers have to leave Trillium in order to support their own families.
- would ensure that students in public charter schools receive 95% of all local, federal and state funds. At the end of the day, public charter schools receive just 58% of the funding available to the host district-run public schools.

My children are worthy of a great education — and funding parity — whether they attend a district-run neighborhood school, or a public charter school in the same district. I appreciate your time and attention to this issue, and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Johanna Norton