

Subject: SB 819 and SB 820

Chair Roblan & Committee,

Today SB 819 and SB 820 will be before the Senate Committee on Education and I emphatically urge you to pass these two critical measures out of committee. Public charter schools are a vital source of energy and experimentation in public education. While traditional public school environments may adequately educate most students in a cost effective manner, there are children, like mine, for whom this system does not work well. My 7th grade daughter was not doing well academically and socially at her old school and she is now thriving in both areas since she started at SW Charter School in the south waterfront neighborhood of Portland.

Unfortunately our school, like many other charter schools, must make all this happen with 42% less funding than district schools get. The Chalkboard Project just did a thorough study of this and the results are discouraging. I have volunteered in the classroom and for the school auction and I know the shortages our school faces firsthand. Our middle school students have no electives, no language options, and little to no arts.

Our teachers and children deserve the same funding and opportunities that are provided to all district teachers and children, even if that means migrating to an alternative charter environment which allows them to thrive. I ask that you please pass SB 819 and SB 820 out of committee.

I very much appreciate your careful consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,  
Amie Wexler  
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