

**Subject:** Please support SB 819 and SB 820

Dear Members of the Senate Cmte on Education,

I am writing to urge you to support SB 819 and SB 820, which will help charter schools. I know that charter schools can be controversial, but I believe that is due to a lack of information. My experience at Emerson Charter School in Portland, OR has been life-changing for my children (4th grade and kindergarten). My children are thriving. They are learning things I wish I knew. They can't wait to go to school. They adore their teachers. They are learning conflict resolution skills and are mature beyond their years. Many of my friends' children attend charter schools around Portland and have similar experiences.

I am an instructor at Portland Community College. I teach in a pre-college program that serves disenfranchised and underserved adult students. I have devoted my entire career serving this kind of community. I have a deep understanding of what funding support can do to help students. I see that Emerson, despite the struggle, succeeds in so many ways already. However, equitable funding would allow the school to serve more students, develop more diversity, and provide resources to make Emerson even better -- and become more of a model for other schools than it already is. I have been nothing but impressed with this school all the way around, from the leadership, to the teachers, to the curriculum, to the parent community.

I am filled with gratitude that my children and the children in my community have the opportunity to learn at such successful charter schools.

Thank you for your time!

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