

Subject: In support of SB 819 and SB 820

Dear Senator Lee Beyer,

I am writing as a registered Oregon voter and concerned parent, asking for your support of SB 819 and SB 820. My child attends (and my younger child will soon attend) a wonderful charter school in Portland called the Emerson School that focuses on Positive Discipline, Project Based Learning, and diverse, equitable education for children from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Our school accomplishes a great deal with very limited funding, but it is time for us to have equity in funding for all of Oregon's public school students.

SB 819 would ensure that our children in (non-virtual) public charter schools receive 95% of state, local, and federal public funds (excluding special education and facilities funding) that children in traditional, district-operated schools receive (leaving 5%, a typical administrative rate, at the sponsoring district). This legislation would require zero "new revenue." It would simply require a "shift," require that the funds follow the students for whom they are intended. This "shift" would constitute less than 1% of the state K-12 budget, yet would make a world of difference to our children in public charter schools.

SB 820 would allow charter schools to give admission priority to children of color, children from low-income families, and English Language Learners which will provide a more equitable access for those historically underserved students.

My family and I will be present at the Senate Education Committee Hearing on April 7, 2015 from 1-3pm to make our voices heard. Thank you for your attention and support.

Sincerely,

Brian Cavanaugh

BRIAN CAVANAUGH
PRINCIPAL + CO-FOUNDER
ARCHITECT AIA AIBC NCARB

ARCHITECTURE BUILDING CULTURE
208 SW STARK STREET, SUITE 200
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204 USA
O: +1.503.208.6515
C: +1.503.560.5874