



Chair Roblan, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.

Please support SB819 which will enable Oregon public charter schools to cover its major operating costs, while still giving the district enough funds to offer administrative oversight of HCCS without adding any additional burden to the State budget. Further, it will allow equitable funding for all public school children.

The added funding that would be allocated to Oregon public charter schools would be value directly added back to the districts and the state. Here's how:

1. HCCS is a school that attracts families of all socio-economic levels. Some families have chosen to take their children out of top ranked Oregon private schools, and placed in one of your public charter schools. Without the option of HCCS, my two girls, a 1st and 3rd grader, would likely be in a private school, or an out of state school that offers Mandarin Immersion. At the same time, as like the State, HCCS is determined to provide equity across all socio-economic backgrounds. The free and reduced lunch program is funded outside of what the district contributes.

2. HCCS fundraises over \$120,000 annually from families within HCCS as well as domestic and multi-national corporate donors. Without HCCS, these funds never would have entered the Oregon public school system.

3. HCCS helps keeps Oregon Public Schools in the leading edge. In today's global market, it is almost a necessity to speak more than just one language. In only nine years, our current third graders will be either entering college or the job market. As they begin their journey into the "real world" each one of these students will be reflecting the public school system in Oregon. I can assure you, each one of you who vote to pass SB 819 will be proud of your decision, knowing these students will have access to thousands more job opportunities due to their fluency in both English and Chinese Mandarin, large multi-national companies such as Intel and Nike will have local Oregonian's who are equipped to fulfill highly specialized and bilingual positions.

Even with the success seen at HCCS, at the current 80% of funding we receive from the district, less than 60% of the costs are covered. This leaves is a large budget gap even after fundraising. Additionally, HCCS still needs to provide the finances for property (a huge cost), maintenance, insurance and transportation. These are all services/facilities that are included in a state district school, and not part of their school budget.

In closing, I urge you to pass SB819. It will allow HCCS to close its budget deficit while still giving the district enough funds to offer administrative oversight of HCCS without adding any additional burden to the State budget. SB819 will give value every child in the Oregon public school system.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony,

Matthew Ho



Bio and background information for Matthew Ho:

I'm a current parent of two little girls who attend Hope Chinese Charter School (HCCS) in Beaverton, Oregon, where I was a co-founder and a previous board member of.

My background is in marketing, working at ad agencies (such as Oregon's own Wieden and Kennedy) and I currently own and operate two successful small businesses in Portland. These experiences have taught me the ability to listen to "the people" as to what they want (market demand) and provide that service or product to them.

Why did I choose to help found HCCS? I saw a demand right here in our local Oregon public school system for language immersion schools, specifically Mandarin Chinese. HCCS has partnered with the Beaverton School District (BSD) to create an innovative and successful Mandarin Immersion school. In fact, in our third year, we have had over 100 applicants and 40 wait listed this coming school year alone.

Because the community believes strongly in HCCS's mission and goals, we have a tremendous outpour of volunteers to work. Just this school year alone, our school community has volunteered over 5200 hours combined. These are hard working, highly skilled people working for the public school system, for free. When there is a market demand, success is inevitable.

Another example of HCCS attracting families, and funds from out of Oregon is HCCS third grader Daniel Kong. The Kong family moved from Grand Rapids, Michigan to Beaverton, in large part to continue Daniel's Mandarin Immersion education. As an aside, Daniel is fluent in English, Korean and Mandarin. He will grow up and represent the Oregon public school system.

Based on my four years of experience helping to build HCCS from nothing, to a healthy, thriving school it is today, it is plain to see how much HCCS contributes to the local neighborhood, Beaverton School District (BSD) and the state of Oregon.