

Subject: Yes on SB819

I am writing to urge the Oregon Senate Education committee to vote Yes on SB819 to give parity in funding to charter school students. I have a child in the Ivy Montessori Charter School in North East Portland. I believe she and her cohorts deserve the same level of funding as their public school counterparts. Charter schools have the flexibility to meet the needs of students in ways that traditional public schools cannot. On a per student basis (ADMw), Ivy school is funded at approximately 60% the level of Portland Public Schools. This means that we cannot offer competitive teacher salaries. The quality of the teaching in the classroom is incredible, but our level of funding means that each teacher must choose each year between their dedication to teaching the students at Ivy, or a professional salary working for Portland Public Schools. This puts our school at a disadvantage. Voting Yes on SB819 will allow charter schools such as Ivy to focus more of their efforts on what we excel at: the education of children.

Thankyou,

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