

Chair Roblan, and members of the committee, my name is Anna Wheeler and I have two sons attending Hope Chinese Charter School in Beaverton.

I am writing to request your support for SB 819. This increased support will go a long way toward fostering equanimity between public schools and publicly funded charter schools. The disparity that currently exists does a disservice to our children through limiting access to educational materials, limiting the quality of facilities, and limiting access to ongoing training. As a Chinese immersion school, HCCS is filling a critical gap in the educational and cultural landscape of Washington county. The longterm impact of such a school is increased cultural awareness, expanded business skills via Mandarin fluency, and enhanced critical thinking skills. These benefits will bring many unknown returns to our community in the future. A lack of these essential 21st century skills will only further existing disparities in education preparedness of our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and please support SB 819!

Anna Wheeler
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