

Subject: Fwd: I urge you to support SB819 and SB829 on April 7!

Dear Senator Engbring,

I am a registered Democrat and my child attends an Oregon Dept.of Education sponsored charter school, The Ivy School.

I strongly support SB819 and SB829 which will come to the Education Committee on Tues. April 7, and I urge you to ask your Democratic colleagues on the committee to vote yes. Under current law, charter schools receive substantially less funding than other public schools.

As independent charters like Ivy act as essentially their own school district, using those funds to cover administrative and facilities whose expenses cannot be shared among multiple schools, existing charters "get by" in what rented spaces they can find and afford, and rely on donations for basic needs like books and materials. Yet charters like Ivy are places where innovative ideas that are often then adopted into the public school classrooms can be implemented and modeled .

SB819 would significantly increase our school's funding, and help us continue to improve the quality of Montessori education that our children receive, and would allow our administration to focus on innovation and excellence.

SB829 would help our school reach the vision outlined in our charter of being able to offer Montessori education--which is now largely accessible only to families who can afford private education--to a diverse community, regardless of income.

Thank you very much for your attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

Heidi Owen