

April 7, 2015

Chair Roblan and members of the committee:

My name is Tom Pullella and I live in Oregon City. My wife and I are parents of two daughters, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, who attend Alliance Charter Academy (we call it ACA) in Oregon City.

I am also the president of the ACA school board.

Both of our daughters began attending ACA in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Prior to that, they attended Gaffney Lane Elementary School, a traditional public school in Oregon City. We were drawn to ACA because of its individualized approach to each child's education, its smaller class sizes, and its strong music program. Both of our girls love ACA. They love going to school, they love the learning environment, and they love their classes (with the exception of an occasional heavy load of homework...)

As you are probably aware, public charter schools in Oregon operate with substantially lower funding than other public schools. It is amazing -- if not miraculous -- what ACA is able to accomplish with its limited budget.

I am asking you to support SB 819 because it provides equitable funding for public charter schools. Equitable funding seems like a reasonable request. The bill does not provide charter schools with more funding than any other public schools -- actually, the bill provides a little less funding than other public schools.

ACA is an amazing program. It is an educational jewel that our state should be proud of.

I hope you will consider supporting SB 819.

Best regards,

Tom Pullella