

Dear Senator Hass,

I am a proud parent of a child who attends Arco Iris Spanish Public Charter school which is in your district of representation. I wanted to share with you my reasoning for choosing this school, the passion I have for it, and why adequate funding for public charter schools is so important. I hope this may encourage your yes vote in the upcoming election.

As a mother and also a full-time public employee (parole & probation officer in your district) I see the value and necessity of the education system in that a positive educational experience serves as a deterrent to entering the criminal justice system as an adult. In effort to support the best educational opportunities for all children, we must look at all options and support all valid and successful avenues. Research continues to support optional education (charters). Public charter schools have been exceeding the educational needs of children in the state of Oregon which directly correlates to lifelong success. We should strive to equally support public school options - charter schools included.

I chose Arco Iris after learning that my son has a learning style that would benefit from a smaller learning environment. Our neighborhood public school classroom consisted of a 1:35 teacher/student ratio and this was negatively impacting his education. Not only did Arco Iris offer smaller class sizes, it also offered a second language curriculum. Arco Iris has since changed my son's life considerably. He has excelled in the smaller classroom setting and he reads, writes and speaks Spanish! Arco has provided my son and so many other children options to learning which are greatly needed.

SB 819: SB 819 would legally ensure that our children in “regular” (nonprofit, community-based, brick-and-mortar) public charter schools have a more equitable funding model. Charter schools are also public schools. Arco Iris is just as important as a district ran public school and should have a fair shake at funding.

Senator, we are desperately seeking your support for these bills. This request is coming from your very own charter school - Arco Iris, and most importantly on behalf of all children who deserve educational options.

Sincerely,  
Brooke Vice  
(Proud Mom)