From:	School Board
To:	Engbring Gretchen; Oksana.glukhovskikh@state.or.us; Sen Roblan
Subject:	SB 819 - Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School
Date:	Friday, April 17, 2015 3:07:24 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

We the board of Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School, are writing to encourage you to give much needed help to Oregon's public charter schools by supporting SB 819.

Arco Iris is currently heading to the end of its fifth year running and has already been rated within the top 10% of all schools in Oregon. With a mission focused on developing bilingual students and offering a rigorous Math program, Arco Iris prepares students to be responsible citizens and life-long learners with strong values. This program gives kids the ability to embrace and be a part of a world with different cultures.

Arco Iris Charter School is successful because so many parents and teachers have sacrificed to make it so. However, the continued success of our school is tied intimately to finances. We receive approximately 60% of the funding that typical public schools receive. Yet, we serve a need for our school district by offering spots for a language immersion program. Because of our charter school, students from all areas of the district have a chance to attend a language immersion school. Not everyone's neighborhood school offers immersion and not everyone can certainly afford a private school immersion program. We deserve the support of our local taxes and voter approved monies, just like all public schools.

SB 819 does not raise taxes. It does not give Charter schools "extra" money. In fact, it requires a shift of less than 1% of the state K-12 budget. Less than 1%! For our small charter school, this bill will make the difference in teacher retention, a critical component for long-term success of a school. Arco Iris was rated in the top 10% of all schools in Oregon. We serve a valuable need in the community; our children deserve equal treatment.

Please do not turn our public charter schools into private schools by requiring parents to contribute thousands of dollars just to reach a level of funding equal to district-run schools. Support SB 819, and support our charter schools and their families.

Very truly yours,

Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School Board of Directors

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Caitlin Jeffery
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Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School, along with the Beaverton School District, recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of the Beaverton School District that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, age, veterans' status, genetic information or disability in any educational programs, activities or employment.