

Submitter: Cory Hultz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

This bill directly impacts me and my family. We desire our children to attend Pinehurst Elementary School then attend the proposed John Adams Academy charter school of the Pinehurst School District for the remainder of their middle school and highschool education. This classical education model has proven highly effective for centuries, and when compared to modern public education, classical education outperforms in every facet.

Oregon Charter School Law gives parents and community members the right to start a charter school in their district if there is evidence of sustainable support from the parents, community, charter school staff and teachers. The community has showed such sustainable support but the charter school been met with fierce opposition. In fact, there is a wait-list of several hundred families to attend this proposed charter school. The only way the opposition has been able to succeed in their efforts is crafting this Senate Bill 767 to block John Adams Academy from operating under their current proposal.

On January 6, 2023, Oregon State legislators met in a private meeting with school board members from the Pinehurst School District to directly target the John Adams Academy charter school proposal that is pending decision at the Pinehurst School Board. There is written, documented evidence of this meeting, and Senate Bill 767 was a direct result. Not only was this meeting done in secret and behind closed doors with the goal to change charter school law to block John Adams Academy from operating, it was illegal in that two of the Pinehurst School District board members attended the meeting for the sole intent of torpedoing the charter school proposal they are facing.

The truly disgraceful and incriminating part about this bill is the timeline and the "emergency" status attached. The timeline is fast tracked to block John Adams Academy before the Pinehurst School Board makes their final decision, which is in less than 30 days. The bill states this is an "emergency" bill, giving it this priority timeline. There is absolutely no way Bill 767 was not crafted with the sole intention of blocking John Adams Academy from the Pinehurst School District. Oregon Representative Pam Marsh of Ashland attended the January 6 meeting with school board members and was fundamental for the crafting of this bill. I understand why she put an "emergency" status on it, for I grew up with her children in the Pinehurst School District, and she is personally strongly opposed to the John Adams Academy joining that district. She is also good friends with school board members.

My question for you legislators is this- does this bill affect you like it does my family, and the hundreds of families in favor of this education model coming into the Pinehurst and Ashland communities? This charter school has given us as parents so much hope for the future, and you're dead set on stealing that hope, so that the only public school option available is the highly politicized Ashland School District, which has multiple complaints against it for acting discriminatory, and the school environment creates intense social pressures among students that are not what we desire for our children. We have hope and you're taking it away so that our children are forced to remain in your dysfunctional public school system.

Charter Schools have rights granted to them by the State. The John Adams Academy team has checked all the boxes and done everything asked of it to this point. The only way it can be stopped is by changing the charter school laws, which is what this Bill 767 was crafted to do. This is discriminatory and singles out John Adams Academy.

The parents of Southern Oregon will be voting you out of your positions if you vote Yes on Bill 767.