

Submitter: Elizaebeth Nielsen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure: SB767

I am a parent of students enrolled in City View Charter School (K-8) of the Hillsboro School District. Started by parents who chose an EL or “expeditionary learning” model 19 years ago, it remains the only public charter school in our district. SB767 immediately threatens the existence of City View, because our district and city boundaries do not align.

City View currently serves 311 students, plus waitlist. We are restrained by the size of the facilities we’ve rented, and have been exhaustively searching for the better part of a decade to find our own property within Hillsboro itself. The current land use rules and zoning requirements have led us, finally, to a property that, while firmly remaining within Hillsboro city limits, is just on the other side of HSD boundary into Beaverton School District. We hope to move in this autumn.

If SB767 passes, City View will be caught without space to serve our students, and HSD would have to absorb an entire elementary school’s worth of children back into itself, without the same amount of budgetary support that a district receives if a new student moves into the district. HSD currently allocates 80-85% of public funds per pupil to City View, so has, for nearly two decades, supplemented their budget without having to serve hundreds of families.

I am opposed to SB767 due to the unintended consequences its wording would wreak. The process of re-chartering City View in Beaverton could take months we do not have, as well as strand our current population of students back in HSD. Our prospective facility site is in Hillsboro, as are our students; the HSD boundaries do not reflect that and measure SB767 does not serve the reality of our students.