

Submitter: Liana Oram
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

Dear Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 767 based on the extremely negative impact it will have on Lewis & Clark Charter Montessori School in Damascus, OR. Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School is a wonderful school that is unexpectedly being forced to relocate this coming year due to a sudden termination of our lease by our sponsoring school district GBSD. Finding available space in less than a year that can house our approximately 400 students has been almost impossible, but our Executive Director has identified a property for sale in Gresham, OR that is a less than 1000 feet from the GBSD boundary. This bill would not allow us to operate in this facility and would likely prevent us from being able to serve the students and families who currently benefit from the unique and supportive programming offered by the school and will undue duress and hardship for many Oregon families. While our preference would be to remain inside the GBSD boundary, the limited time period imposed by the school district and the lack of options to house our 17 classrooms has led us JUST outside that boundary – is there any distance limitation that can be added to this bill if it must move forward? For example, more than half a mile outside the school district boundary?

Please vote NO on this bill and help us continue to offer free Montessori education to the students and families in the west Portland area. Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School has existed for over 14 years, and the loss of its programming would be a loss for the entire state of Oregon.

Thank you for your time and support,

Liana Oram