

Submitter: Anna Laura Whipple
On Behalf Of: Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

To the esteemed lawmakers of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing on behalf of our beloved school Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School which will be very adversely affected by the proposed SB 767.

This school has been a wonderful place for our youngest child (and almost 400 other fortunate students). We were thrilled to be granted a spot in this program, and have been extremely thankful to be a part of such a supporting and caring environment over the past three years.

Unfortunately, the school is being forced to relocate due to a sudden lease termination by our sponsoring district, GBSD (Gresham Barlow School District).

It would be ideal for us to remain inside GBSD boundaries but given an extremely limited time frame and lack of existing facilities to accommodate 17 classrooms, the school's choices are very limited. The proposed new facility that has been found by our school's administration is located less than 1000 ft from the GBSD boundary. We would like to turn an unfortunate situation into a positive impact by moving from a rural location that is inaccessible by public transportation, to one that opens access for enrollment to underserved, more diverse populations in Rockwood and the surrounding area while also continuing to serve our school's current families. Greater access & diversity is a key component of our current Strategic Plan. Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School has been in existence for over 14 years, and this proposed SB 767 poses a serious risk to the future of this special school.

I wholeheartedly hope that this bill does not pass as written, and that consideration be made for our beloved school community to continue to exist.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Anna Laura Whipple