

Submitter: rebekah rattaro
On Behalf Of: Lewis and Clark Montessori School
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

I am writing in opposition to SB 767

My name is Rebekah Rattaro and I have two children at Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter school. I am also an employee in the kitchen.

Recently our school lost its lease with the GBSD and we were forced to relocate in very short amount of time. Finding a school inside of our district's boundaries, though ideal, has been near to impossible in keeping our school community together.

The proposed new facility IS LOCATED ONLY 1000ft from the GBSD boundary. This bill would create WALLS not open BORDERS.

We would like to turn the unfortunate situation of a forced relocation into a positive impact by moving from a rural location that is inaccessible by public transportation to one that opens access for enrollment to the underserved, more diverse populations in Rockwood and the surrounding areas while also continuing to serve our current families.

Greater access and diversity is a key component of our current Strategic Plan.

Lewis and Clark Montessori charter has been in existence for over 14 years and is THE ONLY FREE MONTESSORI SCHOOL IN OREGON. Offering this to students and families who may not have otherwise had access to the specialized school would be a true loss.

My husband and I both tended to be a bit out of the box growing up in public schools. When learning about the Montessori Method we were excited for the opportunity to enroll our children into a school that supported learning that the Montessori method lends, FOR FREE as a private Montessori education was far out of reach for us financially. It felt like a great fit for our family, and we were so happy to be part of the the Lewis and Clark community. After enrolling and getting involved as well as working at the school I see how strong the community is and how incredibly amazing it has been for kids that might not be able to do as well in a regular district school. Montessori allows students who need more movement and space to follow their ideas and begin creating their future. It lends a hand to so many children who desperately need this specialized school and allows them to remain in community with peers.

Watching the students put on their own plays, plan camping trips, create greenhouses and composting systems, building, working together they are all so

close and losing our school would be devastating.

Please please do not pass this bill Save our school community!!!!!!!