

Submitter: Audrianna Gurr  
On Behalf Of: Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB767

Dear Committee members,

I respectfully ask that you please please do not let SB 767 pass committee! Just like many others, our school, Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School, and community has been through so much over the last three years with the pandemic shutdowns. We have a strong community of 400 strong students and over 1000 community members that have felt supported by this school and our kids are thriving in their academic growth over the last 14 years.

Our school is forced to move by this summer due to the termination of the lease we are currently located. The lease ending notification has put our school members looking options to relocate. There are not a lot of options for such a big and diverse community. We found one that will work for our community and have been trying to buy the location so we don't have to deal with a lease and the uncertainty that can come with that in the years to come. This new location is less than 1000 ft from the Gresham Barlow school boundary. It is hard to find an available building suitable for K-8 kids and to sort it to accommodate the Montessori curriculum for 400+ students that these kids have been learning from for years.

If you let us use the site we found this provides an opportunity to move our school from a rural to a more urban setting that allows more underserved kids with neurodiversity to have access since school buses can't service this school. More kids having access to this education opportunity in economically challenged East County is so important and a powerful statement to the community nearby that they matter.

I have had two sons in this school, one currently in 7th grade (the other graduated in the summer). My son's academic and social needs are met here. If this school is forced to close it will negatively affect his and others mental health and academic confidence and, honestly our family's as well. Please be open to letting our school still exist and be at this spot by letting us relocate and not be hindered by the limitations outlined in SB767. As a mother of kids effected by mental health challenges exacerbated by the pandemic please don't pull the safe community away from us. You may contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Audrianna J. Gurr, LPC, CACDI

Thank you for your consideration.