

Submitter: Jessica Armitage
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

Dear Committee Chairs:

I am writing in opposition of OR SB 767. I am a parent of two children that have attended Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School under the Gresham Barlow School District for the past 6 and a half years. Our community has been blessed to have the opportunity to attend this gem of a school for the last 14 years when Montessori education is often not accessible for many. Our school has operated in rural Damascus since we started, and we even had to move to an older building in 2018 after GBSD updated the building we were leasing from them for their public-school students. We were leased the older building for 7 years and have worked hard to make it our own, but Gresham Barlow School District recently broke the lease prematurely forcing us to find a new facility in a very short period of time. As you can imagine, finding a building to work as a school for nearly 400 preschool-8th graders (17 classrooms) within our district boundaries is near impossible. We were lucky enough to find a building that will work perfectly for us and would actually place us in a more population dense location so we can be more accessible to underserved communities, like Rockwood and the surrounding areas. But if OR SB 767 passes we will be shuttered immediately because the new building is located 1000 feet outside of the GBSD boundary! Charter schools, like Lewis and Clark Montessori, bring more diverse learning options to the community and help lessen the burden of the area public schools. My children have thrived in the Montessori environment, but we would never be able to afford to send them to a private Montessori school. I urge you to please vote against this bill. Thank you so much for your consideration.