

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

Hello. I have been in public education since 1999. Eight years ago, I had the opportunity to attend Montessori training and began working at Spokane Public Montessori in Washington. Three years ago, I moved to Portland to take a job at Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School. I am very committed to public, free education for all children.

Our charter is with Gresham-Barlow School District. They recently prematurely ended our leasing contract, forcing us to find a new location in less than one year. We have an opportunity to purchase a building where we can be of service to families in an underserved area. This bill will potentially close our school down after 14 years of service to families. I understand that there can be serious issues with charter schools operating outside of the District that holds their charter, but our school and many others would be unfairly penalized if this bill is passed.