

Submitter: Nicole DeGraff
On Behalf Of: My kids and all kids of Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

The state of education in Oregon today is plagued with ineffective outcomes despite higher than ever per pupil funding, lack of real choice for families, and a sad lack of transparency and accountability which parents have been asking legislators and administrators to see for awhile. That was before Covid hit.

Before Covid hit, we were not teaching our kids to read. We lowered graduation requirements and eliminated assessment benchmarks to know if schools are failing. We're leaving the most vulnerable behind and yet we are going to prevent innovative charters from helping the families in their own community?? The bulk of the make up of charters are classified as disadvantaged. Why on earth would the sponsors of SB 767 erect barriers and remove new educational options for families --especially In a time when more are opting out of public school to homeschool. Like it or not, charter schools are here to stay and are providing a great academic experience for many Oregon children and growing in demand. This bill would restrict current charters as some are outgrowing their physical space.

Charter schools have broad bipartisan support and in fact the majority of parents in Oregon, want more educational options for their kids. My kids were not thriving thanks to weak attempts of the local brick and mortar to educate and they now attend a charter. There has been a waitlist due to high demand and I want other kids to be able to thrive like mine. This bill would impact future growth. We need more options. The intersection of learning losses with the need for additional alternative educational options has never been more apparent. Education has become too polarized, too political and frankly lost its way with regards to priorities and some of us will never go back to the district public school. We need more math tutors and more trained educators that will teach our kids basics and to read in a way that is the most effective. Oregon will continue to display low academic results and refuse to produce any meaningful competitive citizens if we limit charter schools. I urge you to vote NO.