

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

Hello,

I am a parent of 3 students who attend Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School. This school has changed our lives. My oldest daughter who is 10 had been to 3 other schools before we took one final try on school and enrolled her in Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School. This is the child who dreaded school, could find nothing fun about it, always struggled to find her stride in school. When she started at Lewis and Clark Montessori I was hopeful that it would stick. And boy did it ever. My daughter went from hating to school to wishing school was 5 days a week instead of 4. As a parent you can't imagine the joy and relief I felt to hear her say this. My son and other daughter have thrived as well. Getting to experience a community and way of life I do not think they would get in traditional school. If this Bill is passed it would be devastating to our family.

We are being forced to relocate due to lease termination by our sponsoring district, GBSD. Of course it would be ideal if we could remain within the GBSD boundaries but given the lack of time we were given and lack of facilities able to accommodate 17 classrooms and 400 students we've been put in an unfortunate position. The new location is only 1000ft from the boundary line. Plus this new location would allow for even greater access to families who could not travel to our current somewhat rural location. Simply put this bill would be devastating to this community that has existed for over 14 years with Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School. My children and I are not ready to let go of something that has lifted us up during hard times and been there to support us and given us so much joy.