

Submitter: Sarah Thornton  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB767

My child attended Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School for all 9 years of their K-8 education. It was an amazing experience and they excelled in high school and graduated as a member of the National Honor Society and Valedictorian of Gresham High. Lewis & Clark provided a foundation for learning that can't be matched. The school is an invaluable institution in our community that goes beyond the walls of the school, including maintaining a community garden that provided fresh produce to seniors facing food scarcity.

Lewis & Clark has been searching for a permanent home for all 14 years of its existence and is now being forced out of their current location due to a lease termination by sponsoring Gresham-Barlow School District. The school admin has finally found a permanent home to move the school into a more suburban to urban environment that will allow access to open enrollment to the under-served, more diverse populations in the Rockwood and surrounding area while continuing to serve current families. This new home is less than 1000 feet from the GBSD boundary. The timing of this bill couldn't be worse and it would effectively shut down the school, leaving over 200 families in the lurch. Please vote NO on SB 767 and allow well-established charter schools to be located within proximity to their existing community.

Thank you for your consideration.