

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

Hello,

We are writing today to provide our testimony in opposition to SB 767. This proposed bill would place a crippling impact on the school most of my children attend, Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School. Their school is already in a difficult situation as they are currently being forced to relocate due to lease termination by their sponsoring district (Gresham-Barlow School District). After an extensive search for their next location, the proposed new facility is just barely outside the GBSD boundary - legitimately less than 1000ft outside GBSD lines. They have made the best out of this unfortunate situation by finding a location they believe would continue to serve their current families (like mine), while extending their reach to underserved, highly diverse neighborhoods in the greater Eastside region.

My wife and I are very thankful and proud to have our children attend Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School. We have 4 children currently enrolled at this school, each with different needs that vary across the spectrum - from academically advanced and ahead of the curve, to developmentally delayed and needing extra focus and support. Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School's unique approach to meeting the needs of each individual student has allowed all of our attending students to thrive, and be a part of an educational experience that they would not (and have not) been able to receive from any other school with this level of flexibility. They are all receiving an excellent education since our family has been welcomed to this school, and we are highly concerned that this proposed bill would put the school's future at risk. The administration of Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School has already undergone great lengths to help protect its ability to continue despite GBSD's call to terminate their current building lease; this bill would take their solution to this problem into a critical one that puts it and all of its affected families at great risk.

As a proud and supportive family of Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School we highly oppose SB 767, and advocate for its dismissal. If the intention of this bill is targeted to resolve an unrelated issue, it should be rewritten in a manner that does not negatively impact other existing, thriving charter schools like ours.

David Jayme & Traci McDonald