

Submitter: Stephen Scannell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

I am a long-time supporter of the Lewis and Clark Charter Montessori School. I was one of a group of founding members that helped start the school in 2007 and both of my children attended LCMSS K-8, before graduating and moving on to successfully participate in our local public high school. We are residents of the Gresham-Barlow School District, and I am a long-time educator employed by the Gresham-Barlow SD. I also served on the LCMCS Board for 6-years. I strongly believe that the Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School provides an important and viable option for parents searching for the right fit for their children and that our systems of governance should support the existence of this school. I understand the reasoning behind SB 767 and the idea that a charter school should have some connection with the sponsoring district. However, because the devil is in the details, I do not support this bill at this time due to its negative impact on the Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School. As you are likely aware from previous testimony, the Gresham-Barlow School District decided to terminate the long-term lease with LCMCS effective this June. A search, with an extremely tight timeline, has resulted in a viable facility that is ~1000 ft outside of the Gresham-Barlow SD boundaries. This was extremely fortunate considering the limited availability of such properties in the area. Under current law, this is not an issue, and in-fact, this new location has many positives from the current location based on its more central location to the Gresham-Barlow SD. However, if SB 767 passes, the Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School would not be able to exist within its current charter. I believe that Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School, and with it, its partnership with the Gresham-Barlow School District is an example of what is working in education and in educational governance today. Please vote NO on SB 767 and allow Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School to maintain its excellence and contribution to our community, as well as other established charter schools that may not reside within the strict boundaries of their charter districts. Thank you for your consideration.