

Submitter: Heidi Gehman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

I support SB767 to correct a loophole which has allowed the possibility for a public charter school to conduct operations in a school district that is not the sponsor of the public charter school. Leaving out the word "virtual" in an earlier bill has created havoc in our tiny, rural Pinehurst School District, and may result in the demise of our tiny school. We have had a robust relationship with neighboring Ashland School District, and our children, with transportation provided by Ashland Schools, have been able to attend middle and high school in Ashland. Further, Ashland is facing the possibility of having a brick and mortar charter school that will draw students from their district, while having no local control or authority over the charter school. Finally, the proposed charter, aiming at 1600 students, will have to be managed and provided oversight by Pinehurst School District, which currently has less than 20 students. Please pass Senate Bill 767 to close this loophole that is being used to avoid oversight while taking advantage of a struggling rural school.