

Submitter: Stevie Dwyer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

Our grandchildren have attended Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School, within the Gresham/Barlow School District. Currently we have one granddaughter attending. This is the second site since they have attended, but I believe it is the third site since the School was established.

The current site is in a rural area of the Gresham/Barlow District. Luckily our grandchildren have been able to carpool to a bus for pick up and drop off. If not this bus, it is incumbent on parents to transport their children. Lack of substantial transportation is a known fact for most, if not all, Charter Schools. The Lewis and Clark Charter School has made the moves in the past work and will make every attempt to make a smooth transition for staff and students to the next facility. The new site offers better access to public transportation as well.

I do not see any reason for Senate Bill 767, period. Lewis and Clark will have the lease at their current site terminated at the end of this school year, June 2023. They have found a location that is outside of the Gresham/Barlow district by mere feet. To set in motion, and approve, this Senate Bill that would greatly impact not only Lewis and Clark, but the future of any Oregon Charter School, which seems arbitrary at best.

All Oregon students and families benefit from Charter Schools. I am opposed to Senate Bill 767 not only for Lewis and Clark but for all Charter Schools who face site location challenges due to circumstances out of their control.