

Regarding SB 767;

To: Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber and members of the Senate Committee on Education

My name is Stan Avery, a Bandon school board member not speaking on behalf of the school board. I am writing in opposition to this bill. These are my own view and am speaking on behalf of myself, friends and family. (I have 26 grandchildren).

This bill represents a thinly-veiled ploy to erode the liberty of Oregon citizens, with regard to our hard-won school choice rights. Anti-liberty socialist-leaning elements in our government have long opposed any competition to our public school system, such as home-schooling, private and charter schools. Our State already has excellent standards and procedures in place, to assure that charter schools meet or exceed public school performance. All evidence indicates that charter schools get superior results to public schools. Competition is not only healthy, but it is enshrined in our society and system of government. Public schools are free to compete with other sources of education.

SB 767 is designed to allow local public school districts to thwart and marginalize the growing base of charter schools emerging throughout Oregon. This will empower public school administrations to exercise a measure of dominion over their competition. This unjust, unfair, and erosive to liberty.

We urge you to set aside this proposed legislation. It is a reversal of every step our State has taken regarding educational liberty and choice during the past fifty years.