

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

Thank you for accepting testimony on this bill.

My concern is that the bill will have unintended consequences that exceed its benefits. The specific unintended consequence could be the forced closure of the Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School. As I understand it, the school is already being required to relocate, and the only suitable location available at this short notice is a thousand feet outside the sponsoring school district. Under current law, this would not be a problem, but if SB 767 is passed, this new law would appear to force our excellent charter school to close. Given the record of the school, and its families' support for it (as I know personally), this outcome cannot possibly be what the Oregon State Legislature would intend.

I realize that there may be other charter schools who would also be affected in ways not intended by the Legislature, and I hope that they too will be heard in this testimony process. But I am only writing about the school I know personally. The child whose family I know has thrived in this amazing school. I want to believe that this kind of positive educational experience will weigh heavily, even decisively, in the consideration of the bill. If legislators have a specific concern in mind, please rewrite the bill -- either prioritizing the specific concern without punishing other schools, or allowing at least a reasonable flexibility in locating schools affected by the bill.

Sincerely,

Johan Maurer