

Submitter: Tracie Gibson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

I am in opposition to SB767. This bill appears to have been crafted to torpedo a much-desired charter school option being proposed in the Pinehurst School District. The John Adams Academy Charter School (JAA) has been working side-by-side with local families in the community to bring a classical education model to grades 7-12. This charter school proposal has energized our local community as it is offering a viable model to educate those grades that is currently unavailable in the community.

SB767 would, in essence, eliminate this choice. By changing the rules in the middle of the approval process this Act would effectively move the goal post, denying the path JAA has, in good faith, been following. Declaring an “emergency” to fast track this Act and choosing to make the Act retroactive (by 12 months) seems particularly punitive toward The John Adams Academy Charter School proposal. It is apparent the local community interest and enthusiasm has struck a nerve in a few that vehemently oppose the charter school for such drastic measures to be included in this bill, as no “emergency” exists to warrant this measure.

The role of the Senate Committee On Education should be one that supports the formation of needed educational opportunities for children in underserved communities. JAA is offering to do just that with overwhelming support of local community members. The role of this Committee should be to help remove roadblocks and obstacles that discourage well-meaning individuals from seeking the best educational options available for their children. SB767 will only harm the families seeking out a more suitable learning environment that meets their needs. I encourage you to review public and written testimony from the above referenced hearing. You will be encouraged to see a community coming together to meet the needs of these children with an innovative and progressive charter school choice we should all be able to get behind, including, and most importantly, our elected officials.