

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

I am opposed to SB 767. My family was lucky enough to discover Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School last Spring, while we searched for a school to enroll our twins in Kindergarten. We found the options in our home district lacked any kind of before or aftercare, which is essential for working parents. We discovered Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School, and absolutely fell in love with the school and the staff. They have a wonderful program where students are seen as individuals, and given the tailored attention they need to thrive in school. They have a very reasonable before and aftercare program, which has allowed our family to not completely disrupt our jobs and lives, and our girls to attend a wonderful school. My children are neurodivergent, and not once have their teachers ever approached me with anything but love and understanding, and a desire to help my children THRIVE in a world that doesn't always want them to. Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School is being forced to relocate, due to an terminated lease agreement by our sponsoring district. Finding a new facility to house our 400 students and staff, on VERY short notice has proven to be a HUGE challenge. Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School has found a facility that will suit our needs, however it sits just 1,000' from the GBSD boundary line. Moving from Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School's current rural location, to this facility, provides us the opportunity to open enrollment to under-served, more diverse population in Rockwood and the surrounding areas, while also still continuing to serve our current families. Purchasing this facility also gives Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School a permanent home. Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School has been established for 14 years, and has positively impacted the lives of countless families during that time. I cannot imagine my girls going to any other school next year. Since starting kindergarten at Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School, I have seen my girls THRIVE and grow socially, emotionally, and academically. Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School is definitely the best place for my girls, and if SB 767 is approved, my children, and 398 other children, will no longer have that awesome support and education.