

Submitter: J K
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

We love our school Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School! Unfortunately, our sponsoring school district (GBSD) terminated our lease agreement with the building and our school is now FORCED to relocate. This bill has a massive impact on the 400+ students, families, teachers and staff at our school and, also, to the other well established charter schools across the state. Not only is it difficult to acquire a building, but a building to support 17 classrooms in a time frame of less than 8 months that is within the boundaries of the existing school district, is pretty much impossible!!! Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School has been in existence for 14 years and my children/family has been a part of this community for 5 years now and we have at least 6 more years to complete. I personally have been very much involved with our school for procurement and fundraising for the programs that are lacking due to funding, and now here is another body of people trying to take yet another situation (location) and make it be a part of yet another hoop to go through. The proposed new building is located less than 1000 ft from the GBSD boundary and this bill will make a huge impact on our location! Our children do not want to have to go to another school because of "boundaries" and are so happy to be at this school. This school had to move already 4 years ago (GBSD wanted to remodel the building we were in for their students) and the kids just got use to the current building when we were informed that we have to move to yet another location because GBSD needed the building for admin... It takes years to physically build a site to accommodate a school and to find a location that will work, only to find out that a bill in legislation can change everything, is so heartbreaking! Please keep the children in mind, they have had to endure so much these past few years and this move about changing a bill is NOT helpful. Please do not amend ORS 332.158

We would like to turn an unfortunate situation into a positive impact by moving from a rural location that is inaccessible by public transportations to one that opens access for enrollment to underserved, more diverse populations in Rockwood and the surrounding area while also continuing to serve our current families, a key component of our current strategic plan.