

Submitter: Meghan Hilliard-Melick
On Behalf Of: Lewis and Clark Montessori and Charter School
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

My daughter is four-years-old, and has been at the mercy of the pandemic for 3/4 of her life. She took her first steps the same week the country went into lockdown in March 2020, and was isolated for the next 2.5 years. She became scared, and would disassociate from people she didn't know well. Thinking about her even attempting to go to school with new faces and away from her parents seemed absolutely impossible, her worst nightmare. But there we were in August 2022 on her first day of preschool at Lewis and Clark Montessori and Charter School, and although she was scared, Evie walked into school with her teacher and her classmates, and every day since she's found light in others. She's trusting of people now— joyful in their presence— a true metamorphosis from where she was even a year ago. LCMCS has been so important to her, and to our family, and we need your help in not taking it away.

LCMCS lost their lease this school year with little notice, and the school of 400 students has been scrambling to figure out what to do in these last few months of school. The director of the school and the board found a suitable alternative, and as they're in the final steps on finalizing a sale, we've been told since the new space is ****blocks**** outside of our original school district, it may have to shut down if Bill 767 passes. Please don't allow this to happen to our little community— to children like Evie— who have found their place at LCMCS. Please vote NO on 737!

Sincerely,

Meghan Hilliard-Melick