

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

Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School was founded over 14 years ago by parents who wanted a public option for their children to have access to a quality Montessori education. I am a parent of two children who attended the school from Kindergarten through the eighth grade. They are both thriving in high school in no small part because of the skills and the attitude toward learning they received going to Lewis and Clark Montessori.

The school now has over 350 students in attendance. We have resided in the Gresham-Barlow School District the entire time. For the past 11 years we have rented space from the district. We are currently have a 5 year lease for one of the districts buildings. Due to unforeseen circumstances, GBSD needs the space we currently occupy and have terminated our lease several years early. We are moving out of our currently building as soon as the school year ends.

Finding a building within the district on extremely short notice proved to be very difficult for us. We have found a property that we think suits our purposes but it is 1000 feet from being actually inside the Gresham-Barlow. This location would bring the school from its current rural location to one that is serviced by public transport, and put us much closer to unserved and diverse areas in the Rockwood neighborhood.

The current wording of Senate Bill 767 would would a terminal blow to our school which has been such a benefit to my family and so many in our community. This school and others in similar situations should not have their existence threatened when this bill could be amended to service our home grown charter schools.

Please find a way to accomodate schools in our situation!

Sincerely,
Matthew Lee
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