

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

I have served as the Executive Director of Lewis & Clark Montessori School for the past 6 years and had the privilege to witness first hand the impact it has made on thousands of students, families and staff. Notice was received in October 2022, that the building we currently lease from our sponsoring district, GBSD, will be terminated effective June 30, 2023. To find an existing facility that can house 17 classrooms and over 400 students and staff in a window of 7 months is near impossible. However, after weeks of searching, a viable facility was located and we are fortunately in a financial position to purchase it. Fourteen years after it's founding, Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School's forever home is under contract!

Should SB 767 pass as written we are faced with the impossible scenario of owning a building that is mere feet from the GBSD boundary line but unable to operate as a school. I plead with you to please amend SB 767 so that it is written to protect Charter schools which have been operational for an excess of 10 or more years.