

Submitter: Rebel Clarke-Mosso
On Behalf Of: Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

Opposing Testimony

My daughters' school was given notice in October that our current building lease with GBSD will be terminated effective June 30, 2023. The school has spent weeks of searching for a facility that would provide a location for our school to continue its 14-year existence as well as serving a dual purpose in being a permanent home. These types of buildings don't exist on every corner and to find one that is at least 30,000 sf and can be outfitted to house almost 400 students and staff is near impossible. Add in a timeline to complete this task in mere weeks vs. years well, essentially a unicorn is what we are searching for.

Fortunately, we have located a facility that accommodates most of our needs but is located just feet from the Gresham-Barlow School District boundary line. This wouldn't have been an issue, but Senate Bill 767 has been introduced into legislation and will amend ORS 332.158. If this happens, it will be devastating not only for our family, but for the 400+ members of our community.

My daughter has been attending Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School for the past 7.5 years. She absolutely loves this school. My stepdaughter who also attends Lewis and Clark used to hate going to her other school. She now looks forward to school in the morning. That is a huge improvement for her. Both of my daughters are set to finish out their last year next September before heading to high school. Our kids have been through so much the past 3 years with Covid, this abrupt relocation, and now Senate Bill 767.

Please do not take their school away from them!!