

Submitter: Joshua and Katie Haywood  
On Behalf Of: Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB767

To whom it may concern. My name is Joshua Haywood and I am writing this statement of opposition to SB 767 on behalf of my wife Katie, my 9-year-old daughter, and Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School, which my daughter attends.

The reasons for our opposition to SB 767 are as follows:

We have had nothing but positive experiences with Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School. As of this year, the school has been forced to relocate due to lease termination by the sponsoring district, Gresham-Barlow School District (GBSD). Although it would be ideal for the school to remain inside GBSD boundaries, the school has an extremely limited time frame to find a new location and there is a severe lack of existing facilities to accommodate 17 classrooms making the school's choices limited. A prospective location has been identified. The proposed new facility is located less than a 1000 ft from the GBSD boundary. Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School would like to turn an unfortunate situation into a positive impact by moving from a rural location that is inaccessible by public transportation to one that opens access for enrollment to underserved, more diverse populations in Rockwood and the surrounding area while also continuing to serve their current families. Greater access and diversity is a key component of their current plan.

Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School has been in existence for over 14 years and has provided an invaluable education to our little girl. Our daughter has special needs that the school has been able to address with the utmost care and professionalism; something that her previous public school was unwilling/unable to do. Passing SB 767 will be the death-knell for Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School and will put our daughter at a significant disadvantage for her educational future. My wife and I urge the senate committee to vote against SB 767 so that our daughter and future children with special needs get the opportunities they deserve.

Thank you for your time. We have faith that you will make the right decision.