

Juliet Grable
13350 Highway 66
Ashland, OR 97520

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 767

Feb 2, 2023

Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing to voice my support for Senate Bill 767. I am a resident and taxpayer in the Pinehurst School District in Jackson County.

SB 767 corrects a clerical error that unintentionally allows a brick-and-mortar charter school to be located outside of the physical boundaries of the sponsoring district. As I understand it, this policy was intended to apply only to testing facilities for virtual charter schools. This fix is desperately needed. As I type this, a California entity called John Adams Academy is attempting to take advantage of this error and unintended loophole and is seeking sponsorship from our tiny rural district for their public charter school. The brick and mortar school, which would have an estimated initial enrollment of 450 students, would be located outside of the physical boundaries of our district, likely in Ashland.

It is absurd that Oregon statute would allow a charter schools to be approved without the affected district (Ashland SD, in this case) having any say in the matter. Furthermore, this loophole allows an entity with far more resources and scale to prey on small, vulnerable districts like ours. We are awaiting our school district board to vote on JAA's proposal. If it passes, it would set a troubling precedent. For this and for many other reasons, the majority in our community vehemently oppose this proposal and have rallied against it.

Please pass SB 767 before more school districts are thrown into chaos.

Sincerely,

Juliet Grable