

Submitter: Julie Steffen  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB767

Please, please, please vote NO on SB 767. Parents are eager for MORE options in school choices, not less. School is not one size fits all for many students. Charter schools allow parents to have more options for their kids in choosing which school is the best fit for their kids. Parents know their kids the best. It's not financially feasible for all parents to choose private schools for their kids, so public charter schools allow parents more options in schools that will more likely serve the needs of their kids best.

Taking options off the table for school choices is not helpful to kids who benefit from what charter schools have to offer. Parents should have greater control over choosing their kids' education. This is demonstrated by the high demand and full waiting lists for charter schools.

72% of Oregonians support school choice, including 60% of Democrats. As elected officials, it is important to represent the views of your constituents, the majority of whom likely support school choice and charter schools. By opposing SB 767, you can demonstrate your commitment to representing the will of the people and preserving their right to choose their child's education.

Parents deserve choice in their child's education, and charter schools provide that option. Both of my sons have attended charter school, and it's been the best thing for them. I am grateful that we had that option to choose, especially when one of my sons was struggling in school. The change to the charter school was what he needed to get back on track. This bill seeks to limit parents' choice and will ultimately lead to more parents leaving the public school system in favor of private institutions and homeschooling options, which are not feasible or suitable options for many families. Allowing more choices in schools allows better access to schools that best suit the needs of students, rather than just for those who can afford private school options. Limiting school choice options hurts families and kids, and is the wrong direction for education in Oregon.