

Submitter: Malea Miglioretto
On Behalf Of: City View Charter School
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

I oppose this bill because limiting the ability for charter schools to operate outside of their districts will have a devastating effect on our Oregon students, charter schools, and the families who rely on charter schools to provide the unique education that their children need.

Our family has lived in Oregon our entire lives. Both my husband and I attended exclusively traditional public schools. Now, we are so lucky to have a student at a charter school. It is the only charter school in our district. The school has allowed our child to flourish in ways that would not be possible at other public schools. He has different needs than some, and the expeditionary learning provided at his charter school is unparalleled for him. When considering schooling, I believe my child will succeed when charter schools are an option. They are instrumental. The students have an experience like no other. They have opportunities and get education in a way that very likely could not be matched for them anywhere else. I cannot stress enough how important charter schools are for so many children and families.

Many charters are limited in size, number of students, and location, and yet still have done wonders. To continue to provide the education students deserve, these charters sometimes must transition to a more fitting location. Finding real estate for schools is always a challenge, especially when on a smaller budget like charters are, and finding a workable location within district can be, most literally, impossible. In our case, our school has finally found a location that will allow it to continue providing this essential education to its students. Except it's just slightly outside of District boundaries.

The passing of this bill will practically shutter countless charter schools. This will irreparably damage my own child's opportunity to learn and excel, along with so many other children's. It's a devastating thought as a parent that your child won't have the opportunity to succeed in a way previously possible, because of this bill. If this bill passes and leads to the impairment or even closure of charter schools these kids will feel the effects for a lifetime. It will damage the fabric of our schooling system in Oregon. We need to do everything in our power to help our children succeed, not create limitations that guarantee a barricade to that.

Oregon already has a great lack of charter school opportunities. And yet a bill is up for a vote that will create an even bigger barrier for charters, the Oregon families that rely on them, and, most importantly, the children who flourish in them.

I sincerely hope my testimony reaches someone and has an impact, because attending a charter school has given things to our family that words cannot fully describe. It's not just a school for us. The ability for charters to operate outside of their District boundaries is indispensable, and necessary for Oregon children to get the education they need and deserve. Limiting charter schools' operating boundaries will do the opposite for children in Oregon. Thank you.