

Submitter: Melissa Laird
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

From all that I have read, it sounds like this bill is a direct attack on a charter school being proposed in the Pinehurst School District and declaring this bill as an emergency is needed as the decision is close at hand.

This is a grave injustice and overreach that clearly shows your callousness for charter schools and parents right for school choice. This bill not only adversely affects the John Adams Academy Charter School, it also greatly impacts other charter schools, such as City View Charter School where my granddaughter attends.

As the Senate Committee on Education your job is to support the educational opportunities of all children in the state, not work to reduce or deny them.

Families are leaving Oregon because of the failing public school system. Removing graduation requirements for students to show a 10th-grade proficiency level in reading, writing, and math in order to receive a high school diploma and then touting higher graduation rates, let parents know that the public school system is not providing the education their kids need to be successful. Public school student enrollment will continue to decline as parents seek better solutions for their kids. Charter schools are one such solution.

As stated in ORS 338.015: "It is the intent of this chapter that new types of schools, called public charter schools, be created as a legitimate avenue for parents, educators and community members to take responsible risks to create new, innovative and more flexible ways of educating children within the public school system. The Legislative Assembly seeks to create an atmosphere in Oregon's public school system where research and development of new learning opportunities are actively pursued. The provisions of this chapter should be interpreted liberally to support the goals of this section and to advance a renewed commitment by this state to the mission, goals and diversity of public education. It is the intent that public charter schools may serve as models and catalysts for the improvement of other public schools and the public school system."

You should be doing everything in your power to welcome charter schools and make it easier for them to prosper. Not the opposite. The fact some public schools may feel threaten is a healthy reminder to them that they need to improve.

Please support our kids and be their heroes, looking out for their interests. Don't play politics with our kids. Vote NO on SB767.