

Submitter: James Kirby
On Behalf Of: City View Charter School
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony to the Committee. My name is James Kirby and I am one of School Board Directors for City View Charter School, Hillsboro's only public Charter School.

Our school has been around for more than 18 years, and we currently serve more than 300 students over two Hillsboro campuses with a staff of 35. Real estate has been a challenge for us over the years, but we have been able to survive by renting unused church spaces and space directly from our Chartering district, Hillsboro School District. Our existing leases, however, are coming to an end and HSD will no longer be able to offer us unused space. These outside pressures have placed us on a path to a bond-funded transition into a single facility to bring our school, or as we call it, our Crew, back together on one campus.

This has been a journey for us. My own Board committee, the Build The Dream committee has been working for more than seven years to make this facility a reality for our Crew. Due to zoning requirements, industrial expansion in the silicon forest of Washington County, and residential infill, the inventory of properties that our Charter School is able to purchase or lease is non-existent. We have vetted hundreds of buildings and pieces of land, each with some hidden poison pill, forcing us to keep looking.

Despite these challenges, we have recently located and have contracted to buy and renovate a building in Hillsboro that is central to our student body and will be able to serve us for many years to come. This is where this bill comes into play for us. Our future school home is just across the district line while still being inside the City of Hillsboro's city limits. With our lease deadlines looming and timelines getting shorter, if this bill passes, we may lose our investment in this new building and be forced to close our doors.

While I am in support of the spirit of this bill, I am hoping that a single amendment can be made such that City View Charter will not be put in jeopardy. Our ask is simply to amend the first date listed in Section 2(2)(c)(B) from January 1, 2024 to even a month or two or three later. This would allow us to complete our move into our new building over winter break at the end of this year when our project is scheduled to be completed. We are only asking for peace of mind as we complete this process seven years in the making.

I would submit that with this small amendment, this bill would allow City View Charter

School to continue to keep our doors open and to continue to build a permanent home for our Crew.