

Greetings to our hard-working Oregon lawmakers. I would like to express my opposition to Senate Bill 223. It appears to me that this legislation is intended to be a first step in bringing Oregon's private schools under the supervision of the state. Candidly, with Oregon public schools ranked in the bottom third in our nation, this oversight is not likely to improve the quality of education in private schools. I believe that a state-run committee providing unwelcome oversight over school's curriculum and governance will lead to infringement of religious freedoms. Additionally, the new layer of bureaucracy managing private schools will impede their ability to deliver quality education. During the pandemic private schools were able to react in a nimble manner, providing opportunities for in-person or hybrid distanced instruction to students much faster and more effectively than larger public schools. The introduction of a state-run oversight committee can only serve to reduce private school's ability to react to serve their students. This is an unnecessary piece of legislation that adds expense to the state budget with little benefit to the schools or students served by them. Thank you for your consideration and thank you for your "no" vote for Senate Bill 223.