

Dear Senate Committee on Education,
I strongly oppose SB 223. This bill is a significant threat to religious freedom and parental choice. It also undermines private education in Oregon by making it subject to oversight by the state.

My children's educational needs are best served by our private Christian school. I chose to enroll my children in faith-based, private education. That was my choice as a parent.

SB 223 would essentially force private schools to register with the state or cut off student access to choir, sports, and other interscholastic programs. Our schools already prioritize student safety, but this bill goes too far.

Our school is currently a member of OSAA, and my children participate in volleyball, track and basketball. Why would you take this opportunity away from my children, especially after the isolation created due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

SB 223 adds expenses to private schools and early childhood programs with little (if any) benefit to the schools or students served by them. The Legislature passed a law in 2019 to protect private school students, and SB 223 is unnecessary in light of that legislation.

My children (Hannah, Josh and Rachel) attend Willamette Valley Christian School, and there's a reason that they don't attend public school. Faith is very important to my family, and we are looking for a different kind of education.

Please don't use our students as leverage in political fights. I ask you to stand with parents, like me and vote 'NO' on SB 223. It's unnecessary and will only harm our children.

Thank you,
Jeff Chapin
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