

March 11, 2021

Re: SB 223

Dear Chairman Dembrow,

I cannot express how strongly I OPPOSE SB-223. This is a threat to my parental choice. This undermines private education in Oregon. The state does not belong in the private school sector. Period.

For our family, my children's needs are best served by our private Christian school. My choice as a parent is to send them to a faith-based school to receive their education. This is my choice as their parent. This is my choice as a Christian. The state does not belong in my parental choice of school. The state does not belong in my faith-based choices. Period.

SB 223 forces private schools to bring the state into the school or the state will cut off children's access to choir, sports, and other enriching interscholastic programs. This is narcissistic and unnecessary.

Our private Christian schools prioritize the safety and wellbeing of all the students to such a degree that attendance is sought out and the students excel. This may seem threatening to the state as many are opting to send their children into private school, but this bill goes too far. Using the success and enrichment of our children as leverage to gain access into the private school sector is a gross display of arrogance and control on the part of the state.

My child's Christian private school is a current member of OSAA, and she participates on the swim team. Why would you take away the opportunity for not only MY child, but for those in public school to swim competitively against those in their age group? Why would you remove the opportunity for these children to grow with those in the community after the isolation Covid-19 has caused?

SB 223 adds even more expense to families already making a costly investment in their children by sending them to a faith based private school. As a single mother I work very VERY hard to keep my kids in a private school instead of public for their safety, different education style, smaller class sizes, continued faith-based life lessons, faith-based correction and discipline, and to know that they are closely looked after when I am not with them.

It should not matter WHY my children are in private school. What matters is that I, as their parent, made a choice to send them there. I still pay Oregon Taxes for other people's children to attend public school. My children should have the same ability to participate with the community of children they're living in, the same activities as their public-school peers.

There is no added benefit from SB 223. In 2019 the legislature already passed a law to protect private school children. SB 223 is unnecessary. The state does not belong in the private school sector. Stop using child enrichment as leverage to gain access to private schools. NO on SB 223.



Hollie Lissner