

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

**Vote "NO" on Senate Bill 223.**

We send our children to Salem Academy because our Christian faith is integral to our children's upbringing and education. We also pay taxes that fund our local public schools. Participation in interscholastic activities is important to enhance student growth and reduce isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By requiring our school to register with the Oregon Department of Education, and subjecting our school to potential curriculum oversight, the state is removing our ability to send our children to a school that allows them to freely practice their religious faith. Senate Bill 223 sets a terrible precedent for the independence of Oregon's private schools.

Sincerely,

Paul Webb  
Salem, OR