

Dear Chairman Dembrow,
I strongly oppose SB 223 and ask you to join with me by voting no on SB 223.

This bill is a significant threat to religious freedom and parental choice. 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.

My children attend Holy Family Academy, and there's a reason we chose this school. Faith is very important to my family, and we are looking for a different kind of education. But sports and music are also very important to us. It shouldn't matter what type of school our children attend. I send my child to private school, and I also pay Oregon taxes for our public education system. My children should have the same ability to participate in extracurricular activities as their public school peers. Please don't use our students as leverage in political fights. It's unfair to punish our children by excluding them from extracurricular activities that are currently offered to both public and private school students. I ask you to stand with parents, like me and vote 'NO' on SB 223. It's unnecessary and will only cause harm to our children.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Denise Talbert, working mom