

Dear Chairman Dembrow,

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

I chose to enroll my child in faith-based, private education. That was my choice as a parent. My children attend East Linn Christian Academy, and there's a reason that they don't attend public school. Faith is very important to my family, and we look for a different kind of education.

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.

It shouldn't matter what type of school our children attend. I send my child to private school, and I also pay Oregon taxes that pay for Oregon's 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. I ask you to stand with parents, like me, and vote 'NO' on SB 223. It's unnecessary and will only harm our children.

Sincerely,
Maurisa Aitkin