

I strongly oppose SB 223. Private schools should not be required to register with the Oregon Department of Education in order to participate in extracurricular activities through the OSAA. They already have a process through which private schools register directly through the OSAA for participation and compliance with OSAA rules. This bill adds an additional, unnecessary layer to an already overstretched public school system. Private schools participate in accreditation addressing student, staff, and facility resources, including rigorous curriculum. Parents have the right to choose where their children receive an education. Not only do they pay tuition for private education, but they additionally pay property taxes which support the public school system. Families who choose private education that supports their faith and family values should not be prevented from participating in extracurricular activities. Because families value and deserve this choice in education, I urge a NO vote on SB 223.