

I am writing to you to express my concern regarding SB223. It is an extreme overreach of the authority of the state.

Governor Brown just recently celebrated Private School Appreciation Day pointing out the benefits that having vibrant private schools in the state provides.

Part of this is the autonomous alternative that parents have for the best interest of their children.

By coming straight out of committee, the bill is unfettered at the current time as no public interchange is able to be had with the doors sealed and the supermajority running rampant on our civil liberties.

Based on the research I see from the committee notes/minutes neither OSAA nor any private schools have requested these changes.

There is no connection between a private school education and any shortcomings. In fact, the opposite is proving to be true. The private school outcomes in our state are exceptional and they are making the public schools look like total failures. It is only when the state has seen a need to intervene that there has been an issue at a private school. The rigors of the education and the accountability to academic and moral standards sets private schools apart from their public counterparts.

The teacher's unions have been pushing for months to delay the reopening of schools and it is no surprise that they are wielding their enormous clout over their bought and paid for elected officials because the private schools have made them look like the fools that they are. Multiple private schools have been in session in person for months with minimal if any issues with COVID outbreaks. It totally destroys the teacher's unions arguments that it is unsafe to teach in person.

The 1st amendment provides for the right to choose your child's education in such that it doesn't interfere with your religious beliefs and the 14th amendment protects a parents right to choose a private education for their children that ensures a difference between public and private school education.

This bill would install an oversight committee at the DOE which would make a private school a defacto public school and the guaranteed differentiation would be gone. It would put ODE in charge of curriculum, schedule, policies, and staffing.

You have a duty as a duly elected official to see that the rights of your constituency are protected. SB 223 is a direct assault on our 1st and 14th amendment rights and must be stopped.

I was born and raised in the public school system and I have been relatively successful. The public school's of my youth are no more.

The families of this state deserve the choice for their children's education. You must see that this bill does not proceed.