

Public schools have their place and there is no argument that the state has oversight of these schools and the districts in which they reside. However, the state is now trying to overstep their bounds and destroy private education in the process, while claiming it's just for the good of everyone. Our state legislators should be ashamed they are even attempting to pass such a blatant attack on my rights! We are not foolish enough to believe this bill helps anyone but the state in their attempt to crush private education.

SB 223 is absolutely the most underhanded way of taking over private schools and making them adhere to the same regulations and oversight as exists for public schools. This is the state's way of taking over private schools and in fact making them so much like public schools that there would be no difference between public and private. This bill has carefully been crafted to punish private schools unless they register AND are subject to the state's wishes and directions. It seems the state has finally thought of a way to mandate what is being taught in a private school; and if it's religious—all the more reason to put a stop to private schooling!

We are told that it's ONLY a way to register private schools. Nothing could be further from the truth! Then the bill states that private schools not registered (and not under the oversight of the state pertaining to curriculum, etc.) could be kicked out of playing sports and other activities in leagues with public schools. This is a way to punish my children and punish the private schools; making our children victims in the state's scheme to punish families who choose private schools over public.

Usually there's a reason a bill is introduced. Is it to solve a problem in the state? Is there something happening within private schools that threatens children, their parents, or the state? The answer is a resounding NO! This bill's ONLY goal is to push private schools down and make them pseudo public schools with the will of the state forced down the throats of the parents and children who seek to choose an education for their child other than public education. The only threat this bill would resolve is to appease those who do not believe parents should have a choice in educating their children. And, in fact, the only change this might bring out for those in the state who are against private schooling, is that more parents would then be forced to home school.

Stop this quest for punishment of private schools and our children NOW! You will NOT take away our rights to educate our children in the way in which we deem best.