

Testimony on Senate Bill 223

March 17, 2021

TO: Senate Committee on Education
FROM: McKenzie Falotico, Office Manager & Admissions Director of North Clackamas Christian School
RE: Statement Opposing SB 223

Thank you for all your work for our wonderful state, I appreciate you taking the time to read my testimony.

SB 223 is a gross overreach of government power. This bill is a violation of our first amendment rights and should never have been written. If passed, it will be detrimental to the future of private education. It was not written by private schools, ODE or OSAA, I hope you're asking yourself where it came from and who it truly benefits.

North Clackamas Christian School is not affiliated with any church body, we are completely funded by the families who pay tuition to enroll their children. Families who have the right and means to choose the path they desire for their children's education. Sports and extracurriculars are being used as a loophole to manipulate private schools into conforming to the rules of this bill.

As the Director of Admissions at NCCS, I have received a massive number of inquiries as families are desperate to flee the public sector. The shift to remote learning due to Covid-19 has proved educational to parents as they receive a front row seat to what is being taught in public schools. For years, private and public schools have co-existed without issue and it is our hope that this relationship can continue as such. .

North Clackamas Christian School is dual accredited, with a reputation of excellence in academics, athletics and arts. The majority of our teachers have taught in both public and private school and they choose to teach in private education for only a percentage of what they would make in public school. A choice they should be free to make and a choice that would no longer exist if this bill passes.

As a parent of a child who I plan to enroll in private Christian education, protecting the rights of private schools in Oregon is vital to his future.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I appreciate it.