

March 15, 2021

Senate Committee on Education  
Regarding Bill: SB 223

Senate Committee members,

I want to call your attention to the ways that bill SB 223 would be in violation of a citizen's right to choose what school their children attend.

We choose to pay for our children to attend a private, faith-based school that is rich in high moral values that lead to responsible, honest, and caring citizens in our community. By forcing private schools to register with the Oregon Department of Education, you are taking away valuable freedoms from private schools in how they choose to educate their students. This is a violation of religious freedoms, as well as parents' freedom to make education decisions for their children.

SB 223 has the appearance of being about student safety, but students' safety and well-being has already been established with legislation in 2019. In actuality, this bill is not about what is best for the students, it is threatening the privileges of the students to participate in OSAA activities, like sports and choir, in order to force a political agenda.

As an Oregon taxpayer, my children, who attend private school, have the right to participate in OSAA activities without their education being re-defined by public school policy.

Thank you for your consideration of my reasons to vote 'no' on bill SB 223.

Parent of 3 children in a private, faith-based school