

In attacking private schools, Oregon is limiting students' school choices. If all plans and procedures in private schools must be reviewed and approved by ODE, they will become de facto public schools. The future of private schools, religious freedom, parental rights, and school choice are all in jeopardy if this bill passes. SB 223 would undercut both the broad educational goals of private education and the rights of private schools to run their own schools.

There is no explanation provided by the Senate Education Committee as to why these requirements should be created.

Per one "Reimagine Oregon" representative, "I don't think the answer is having lots of choice." (@ 1hr11m point of SEC's fall meeting).

What kind of anti-American, anti-capitalism thought-process is going on at these meetings?

It is this kind of short-sighted thinking that keeps us in our current 'education-free-fall' internationally.

In case you're not keeping score at home - here's our latest (unimpressive) rankings from the (2018) PISA results:

USA = 13th in Reading

USA = 31st in Mathematics

USA = 18th in Science

What a sad and embarrassing return-on-investment for our massive tax-dollars spent on public education.

And Oregon struggles to maintain any competitiveness here in the U.S. > Pre-K-12 ranked 37th nationally by US News & World Reports:

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/education>

A bill like this is both unnecessary and wasteful. Neither OSAA nor any school has requested it.

More government regulations and bureaucracy create yet another layer of burden on private schools, which will rob them of valuable resources better spent on educating Oregon children.

Legal Lowlights:

Parents' First and Fourteenth Amendment rights have been upheld by the Supreme Court in relation to education.

The First Amendment protects the right of parents to choose an education for their children that doesn't interfere with their religious beliefs.

A parent's right to direct their child's education is protected under the 14th Amendment and ensures the difference between public and private school should not be eliminated.

State regulation (of private education, or really, anything) must be reasonable and not without limits.

If you want more sub-par results from our education system - keep passing bills like this - and having meetings where more freedom and choices are frowned upon.

If you want to protect parents' rights and stop building walls against students (and the Supreme Court) - vote NO on this bill.