

Dear Chairman Dembrow, I strongly oppose SB 223. This bill is a major threat to religious freedom and my parental choice. It also undermines private education in Oregon. I have 4 daughters who attend Salem Academy Christian Schools, and there's a reason that they don't attend public school. Faith is very important to my family, and we are looking for a better education for our kids. I pay taxes for public schools and should also have access to sports, which all 4 of my daughters play and are an important part of their lives. It is absolutely unfair and terribly wrong to exclude private school kids. We were in public schools for many years before we decided to give them a better opportunity with a Christian private education. Public schools are a mess and our values align with the private school we are enrolled in. It should be our choice as parents to decide what's best, not the state. This bill is unnecessary and will only harm children, especially my 4 daughters and I take that very personally.