

To whom it may concern,

I absolutely oppose SB 223! This bill is a major threat to religious freedom and my parental choice for my 4 daughters. My child's educational needs are 100% best served by our private Christian school. My husband and I chose to enroll all 4 of our kids in faith-based, private education. That was my choice as a parent!!!!

SB 223 goes too far. It's unfair to punish my daughters by excluding them from sports that are currently offered to both public and private school students. Sports shape my kids' lives and are absolutely essential. Our school is currently a member of OSAA, and my 4 daughters all play volleyball and basketball. Why would you take this opportunity away from them, especially after the isolation created due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Sports are a huge part of our family life and help shape my daughters in every best way.

The Legislature passed a law in 2019 to protect private school students, and SB 223 is unnecessary in light of that legislation.

My children 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 different kind of education that aligns with our family values.

We send our daughters to private school, and I also pay Oregon taxes that pay for Oregon's public education system. I take this bill very personally as this will directly impact my 4 daughters. We have rights as parents and you would be taking that away from our decisions that we feel are best for our daughters. I ask you to stand with parents, like me, and vote 'NO' on SB 223. It's unnecessary and will only harm my daughters as well as other private school kids.