



# St. Mary's School

1865

*quasi virens folium*

PROVERBS 11:28

Dear Senate Committee on Education:

St. Mary's School opposes SB 223 because it restricts our freedoms of religion, speech and assembly, wastes taxpayer resources on a regulatory regime which the Oregon Department of Education has already rejected, and constitutes an unlawful monopolistic boycott of private schools in favor of public schools. We are already mandatory reporters of abuse under ORS 419. Furthermore, SB 223 is unnecessary because SB 155 has solved the problem of sexual misconduct reporting by private schools.

Students and parents choose Oregon private schools because they want an alternative education. We have a 100% college acceptance rate, unlike public schools with a 25% dropout rate. Oregon repealed private school registration laws in 2011 at the ODE's request because they were expensive and provide few, if any, benefits to Oregonians. By tying OSAA and National Honor Society membership to registration with ODE, SB 223 imposes a monopolistic boycott on private school competition with public schools. Cartel behavior of this sort reduces the quality of education available to Oregonians.

Registration would require government oversight of our curriculum, eviscerating academic freedom on our private school campuses and infringing on our constitutional rights.

Private school communities are trying to avoid the radical indoctrination currently being pushed by the government in public schools. We also oppose your teacher unions which refuse to teach live classes. Oregonians deserve alternatives and they deserve school choice. Protect academic freedom; do not adopt SB 223.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Francis Phillips, J.D.