

I strongly oppose SB 223. This bill is a significant threat to religious freedom and parental choice. It also undermines private education in Oregon by making it subject to oversight by the state.

I have a right as a parent and Oregon taxpayer to choose where my children attend school. It should not matter what type of school our children attend. I send my children to private school, and I also pay Oregon taxes that pay for Oregon's public education system. My children should have the same ability to participate in extracurricular activities as their public school peers.

It's unfair to punish our children by excluding them from enriching extracurricular activities that are currently offered to both public and private school students. All students have already had too many extracurricular activities taken away from them this past year due to the pandemic. This is an unfair and unnecessary overreach of the state.

My children's educational needs are best served by our private Christian school. I choose to enroll my children in faith-based, private education. This is my right and choice as a parent.

Please do not use our students as leverage in political fights they have all been through too much recently. I ask you to stand with parents, like me, and vote 'NO' on SB 223. Its unnecessary and will only harm our children.

Sincerely,

Ronald Stewart