

Dear Chairman Dembrow,

As a parent of children enrolled in a private school, I strongly oppose SB 223. It is a huge threat to our religious freedoms and takes away our rights as parents to choose which type of education we want for our children. Not only that, but is it simply unfair to punish our children by excluding them from extracurricular activities like choir and sports because their school isn't willing to be subject to oversight by the state. We pay for private schooling because we want our children to attend a faith-based school that gives them an education that lines up with our values. The Oregon government seems to be using this bill as a type of "blackmail" effort towards forcing private schools to submit to their oversight, which is completely wrong!! Private schools are in place so we can have our children educated WITHOUT government oversight and it needs to remain that way. Parents of private school children still pay Oregon taxes towards the public school system and so should be able to engage in the OSAA programs. Please don't use our students as leverage for your political battles. Join me in voting "NO" on SB 223. It will only harm our children and is absolutely not necessary.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lang

Parent, Santiam Christian in Adair Village