

Dear Chairman Dembrow,

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.

My child attends 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. My child's educational needs are best served by our private Christian school.

SB 223 would essentially force private schools to register with the state or cut off student access to choir, sports, and other interscholastic programs. Our schools already prioritize student safety, but this bill goes too far.

Our school is currently a member of OSAA, and my daughter participates in Cross Country and Basketball. In addition, she is in the choir. My daughter should have the same ability to participate in extracurricular activities as their public school peers. Why would you take these opportunity away from her and others in private schools, especially after the isolation created due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Please don't use our students as leverage in political fights. I ask you to stand with parents, like me, and vote 'NO' on SB 223. It's unnecessary and will only harm our children.

Thank you