

It is a documented fact that most children who've benefited from private primary & secondary educational opportunities not only survive but thrive – both in advanced education and personal endeavors. If public schools had enjoyed the success rate of private schools in preparing our young men & women for adult life in society, there would have been no reason for private schools to exist. Although kids are kids and even private school kids misbehave, in general there is less problems with exploitation, bullying, suicide, drugs & gangs. This is no coincidence.

Parents pay extra hard-earned money to send their kids to private school and have a vested interest in their success. Often private school parents are more active in their children's lives both in & out of school. Many kids who attend public school don't have the advantage of closely involved parents and are not there to get the most out of their experience, rather they go because they are entitled to a free education or because they HAVE TO; this thinking leads to attitudes that are disruptive to the educational process and acting out that is counter-productive, sometime dangerous.

Since private schools have done such a great job, why the sudden push to control them? The thrust of SB223 tries to appear as if its goal is to raise private school standards before their students can "associate" with public school students. I say, public schools ought to be held to higher standards! Public education authorities & teachers are seemingly helpless to model, nurture, or enforce their own stated standards. Most often it's public schools you hear about bullying, suicide, drugs, gangs, teachers having sex with students, etc. ...not to mention poor academics, drop-outs & failure to be prepared for college. Even so, private schools have *chosen* to associate with public school students through extracurricular programs and activities anyway to help expose their students to "real life" and provide the broadest social exposure safely possible.

SB 223 is nothing short of an unconstitutional attempt by the state to limit our children & families freedom to assemble in a peaceful manner that they might enjoy the benefits of the shared experience they have chosen; i.e. outdoor school or an athletic event. This bill attempts to "fix" a non-problem merely to get a foot in the door so the public school district can control and eventually take over the education system they have long hated and feared. Private education's successfulness is an indictment against public education's well documented failure. Statistics do not support the need for SB 223 to establish standards – the goal is obviously something else.

The effect of SB 223 will be to reduce the number of students able to freely associate in extracurricular activities because any thinking leader of a private education will refuse to participate rather than sacrifice their success & autonomy and any thinking provider of said activities would be hard pressed to deny services to their best behaved participants.

Signed, A very concerned voter, parent & future grandparent

Excerpts from SB223

Summary

Prohibits school district from being member of voluntary organization that administers interscholastic activities unless organization limits participation in interscholastic activities to private schools that are registered.

This seems to encroach on the 1st Amendment of our U.S. Constitution

Section 2.2

(a)...seeking to further the educational opportunities of students enrolled in private schools

Actually SB 223 is seeking to limit opportunities that already exist – see Summary above.

SECTION 2.4

(a) The teachers of the private school possess qualifications necessary to establish fitness as a teacher.

Unlike Public Schools, if Private School teachers fail to meet objectives, parents can move their kids elsewhere

(d) The curricula for the educational programs of the private school are sound and comprehensive and emphasize the establishment of high practical standards.

Our Public School System fails to regularly meet this standard.

(e) The curricula for the educational programs for grades 9 through 12 establish academic standards necessary for students to qualify to attend community colleges and institutions of post-secondary education, both within and without the State of Oregon.

Our Public School System fails to regularly meet this standard.