

To: Honorable Senator Michael Dumbrow
Members of the Senate Education Committee

Re: Proposed SB 223

There is a distinction between public and "non-public", i.e. private accredited schools in Oregon. The current Oregon Department of Education has stated: "non-public education is recognized as a vital part of Oregon's educational system."

As such, it protects parental rights, school choice, and religious freedom, notwithstanding that distinction being protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendment of our United States Constitution.

We are mindful that the Committee last fall met to discuss the shortcomings of the PUBLIC school system in our state of Oregon, not only in the views of the Committee members, but in contrast to the standards, practices, and admired performance of accredited private schools.

SB223 clearly erases the distinction between public and private schools; thus, even in the short run, provides for the oversight, changes to, and approval of or denial of school curriculum(s), schedule, facilities, policies, and staffing of a particular school or any private or all private schools.

SB223 is an affront to Oregon children of all grade levels, Oregon parents, and our education system overall. If enacted, it will illuminate broadly the shortcomings of the current PUBLIC school system to the general public at large and to applicable stakeholders within the political arena.

Rather, we purport the best interests of the Senate Education Committee and that of its constituents and supporters may be much better served by addressing the public school system's shortcomings and needs rather than erasing the admired practices of our private schools.

Sincere Regards,
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