

I strongly opposed SB 223. The description of the bill ("provides process by which private school may become registered with the ODE") is deceptive; the implication is that this is a benefit to private schools instead of what it is - a punitive measure by which the state can gain control over private educational institutions. Private schools are already beholden to good behavior with existing laws and accreditation standards. This bill is merely a way for the state to gain further control and is no doubt directed mainly against private schools of a religious nature, be they Christian, Muslim, Jewish, or other.

Private schools exist to offer parents a choice as to the philosophy, curriculum, standards, religious teaching, etc., taught to their children. To take that away by forcing a "one size fits all" standard goes against the very idea of private education.

Many schools will decide not to register with ODE due to strong convictions about what is best for their students. The losers will be the children who cannot compete in sports, music competitions, and other activities. In addition, public school students will also lose out by having less healthy competition at such events.

Please do not force private schools to go against their convictions and standards by threatening to punish the children who attend those schools.