

I am in opposition to SB 223 and respectfully ask for a vote in opposition to this bill.

I am in opposition for the following reasons:

Currently, ODE policy states that "non-public education is recognized as a vital part of Oregon's educational system."

This bill would be a violation of First Amendment Rights. The First Amendment grants parents the right to choose education for their children that doesn't interfere with their religious beliefs.

The Fourteenth Amendment protects parents' rights to direct the education of their children and ensures that differences between public and private school cannot be eradicated.

State regulation of private education must be reasonable and not without limits.

If private schools need ODE approval for all plans and procedures, they would become more public schools. This is a grave threat to religious freedom and parental rights and choice and would undermine the broad educational goals of private education.

Parents pay for private school to gain something different than public schools are offering.

This bill is a threat to school choice and the diversity of educational options that currently exist in Oregon.

Please vote no on SB 223

Kelsey Lawrence, mother of 2, Portland, Oregon