

STATEMENT: SB 223

To: The Senate Committee on Education

From: Mindy Cope, Supporter of parents for educational freedom and religion

Date: March 17, 2021

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Please vote NO on SB 223. This bill is presented to provide a process by which private schools may become registered with Department of Education.

If private schools are required to become registered with the DOE, it would create limitations for students in terms of their curriculum and control. This bill would also create limitations for a parent's choice as well as our god given right to religious freedom. Private schools have the right to obtain their own educational goals and without a mandate for DOE approval. If regulations were mandated by overreach of the State, wouldn't private schools just be considered public schools with zero government funding? This is wrong and unconstitutional. Parents have the right to choose how to educate their children without government overreach and without putting limitations on what is acceptable- this is NOT governments place- government has NO business with educational control over our children and it would be a danger to the generations to come.

This bill is unconstitutional;

- The First Amendment allows parents freedom of choice concerning education that does not restrict or interfere with religion. This is a god given right

- The Fourteenth Amendment allows parents the right to educate their children in the way they feel fit to do so whether it be in a private or public method without being limited.

There should not be state regulations on private schools and would take away from the option of having the diversity of educational options, which in turn would end up turning private schools into another default public school. Private education deserves the right to have religious freedoms and the option to not be regulated the way public schools are. This would be a very bad idea – it would undermine our constitution and would be bad practice.

Creating regulations on private school would also be wasteful fiscally for Oregon and would just create another distraction from actually educating children. Give parents and children the right and freedom to choose religion and education that is not controlled! What ever happened to "The child is not the mere creature of the State" when a law was banned in 1925 deemed to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court (The Blaine Amendment). Wouldn't this just be resurrected again if SB 223 is passed? Let's not spiral backwards. Be progressive and don't repeat the mistakes of the past. It seems this government control of religion in private schools and freedom of school choice would continue if SB 223 is passed.

VOTE NO ON SB 223