

## **SB 223**

Dear Senate Committee, I strongly oppose SB 223. This bill is a significant threat to religious freedom and parental choice. It also undermines private education in Oregon by making it subject to oversight by the state.

My two girls have been in private school since they were in preschool. We feel they have gotten a better education than they would have in public school. It is our hard-earned money that we put into their education and we don't want that education dictated by the current system that is in place for the public schools.

There is too much politics, manipulation, and un-necessary control that would make it difficult to get the kind of education we prefer for our children.

SB 223 would essentially force private schools to register with the state or cut off student access to choir, sports, and other interscholastic programs. Our schools already prioritize student safety, but this bill goes too far.

Our school is currently a member of OSAA, and my daughter Sidney participates in three sports. She does Cross Country, Track, and Swimming. My youngest also does three sports. She is in Volleyball, Basketball, and Track.

We don't want our children's sporting opportunities to be taken away, especially after the isolation created due to the COVID-19 pandemic? It has been proven over and over how important being active is for fighting depression, anxiety, and for their health.

SB 223 adds expenses to private schools and early childhood programs with little (if any) benefit to the schools or students served by them. The Legislature passed a law in 2019 to protect private school students, and SB 223 is unnecessary in light of that legislation.

My children attend East Linn Christian Academy, and there's a reason that they don't attend public school. Faith is very important to my family, and we are looking for a different kind of education.

It shouldn't matter what type of school our children attend. I send my children to private school, and I also pay Oregon taxes that pay for Oregon's public education system. My children should have the same ability to participate in extracurricular activities as their public school friends.

Please vote 'NO' on SB 223. It's unnecessary and will only harm our children. Please vote 'NO' to protect our rights to educate 'OUR' children the way we see fit.

Thank You,

Rachel Lane