

Dear Committee:

I am writing to strongly express my opposition to SB 223.

Registration of private schools with the Department of Education is not needed. A likely argument used by the proponents of this bill is the state is concerned about excellence in educational standards for all Oregon students. Well, if the Department of Education is truly concerned about excellent standards in education, they can leave private schools alone to function and flourish free of this proposed added control.

Public schools could take a lesson from how many private schools are run and operated, with the students and their families as the central priority, rather than as an afterthought to a bloated, monopolistic bureaucracy. This bill is just another example of the state trying to stick its nose where it doesn't belong.

In the private school environment, parents are the ultimate deciders of what is or is not giving their child an excellent education. A parent has far more of a vested interest in making sure their child's school has good standards than some bureaucrat sitting holed up somewhere in an office. There is absolutely no reason for private schools to register with the Department of Education. I am asking you to oppose SB 223.

Thank you for your service,
Betsy Kost