

March 16, 2021

Senate Committee on Education  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St NE  
Salem OR 97301

REF: SB223 Registry of Private Schools

Dear Committee Members:

We strongly oppose Senate Bill 223-Registry of Private Schools. Let's just be honest; the intention of this bill is to micromanage and suppress private schools out of existence. When it comes to education, the Oregon legislature receives direction and guidance from the teacher's unions and the teacher's unions oppose private schools. Why is this bill being introduced now, while COVID-19 restrictions continue to decimate our public schools? Certainly, it is not "for the children." If you really placed the education of our children first, you would not allow this bill to move forward.

The war on private schools in Oregon has been ongoing. The most glaring example of this has been the teacher's union opposition to school vouchers. Every year we pay thousands of dollars into our local school district, but our children have never attended public school. Oregon does not allow any means to recover those funds. Last year, when all children were forced into an on-line learning program, money was made available to public schools to be used for the purchase of laptops, cameras and whatever resources were required to facilitate distance learning. However, the State of Oregon refused to allow any funding to private schools for those similar resources. Why was that? How did that benefit the children? No, because the children are NOT the priority.

And now, with our local public schools still in lockdown, the State Legislature (directed by the unions), feel empowered and emboldened to implement a process of suppressing and canceling private schools.

Private schools are an established institution that predates the founding of this country. Please do the right thing, resist the pressures of the alternative interests, deny SB223 and place the education of our children FIRST.

Thank you

Rick and Julie Kraft