

March 18, 2021

Senate Committee on Education
Oregon State Legislature

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 223

To Whom It May Concern:

As a parent with two small children who attend Pilgrim Lutheran Christian School in Beaverton, I strongly oppose Senate Bill 223. I choose private school for my children because I do not want ODE having any hand in determining anything regarding my children's education. I am by no means wealthy. My husband and I both work full time and live very modestly to be able to pay for our kids' private education because it is that important to us. We both had K-12 public school education and could go on and on about how public schools fail children, but of course you already know that.

Through accreditation, private schools are vetted which creates a high standard to strive for and maintain. This accreditation stamp is also what attracts many parents to a particular private school, because they know the school they want their child to attend has oversight, checks and balances. The useless SB 223 would just be adding another layer of unnecessary oversight is not only a waste of Oregon taxpayer's dollars but is also likely to hurt the tuition paying families the most. The bill gives no mention on how this process would be funded, and I can only assume the reason for that.

I feel that ODE should spend their time fixing the awful public school system they oversee and if ODE wants to have any hand in private schools, it should only be to take notes on how to run a successful school system.

Thank you for accepting my testimony.



Joni Gutreece