

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.

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. This bill is unnecessary and it goes too far.

It's unfair to punish our children by excluding them from enriching extracurricular activities that are currently offered to both public and private school students. Their involvement in team sports provides so much valuable learning, personal growth and the added health benefit of daily exercise.

I choose to support private education because it performs better than the current public education system. That is both on a cost per student and on the students' outcome. I would hope the Oregon Senate Committee on Education would be focused on both these measurements with regard to PUBLIC education.

Please do not use our children as tools to leverage a political agenda. Please stand with parents and do what's right for our children and vote 'NO' on SB 223. This bill will harm children and should not be supported by anyone who cares for the well being of Oregon kids.

Thank you,  
Kelli Myers