

To Whom it May Concern Regarding SB 223,

I am writing to let you know that I strongly oppose the referenced bill. I value private schools' ability to decide who to hire, what classes to teach, how long said classes are taught, what activities to participate in, and to have full agency to decide how they want to educate their students. I also fully support parents to have full agency to decide where, when and how their children are educated in the State of Oregon. I have chosen to educate my children in public school through this school year (5th and 8th grades). I am now choosing to no longer educate my children in public school next year and will be spending significant additional dollars to educate my children in private school next year and until they graduate. As part of this decision, I researched each schools' accreditations, staff qualifications, interviewed parents of the school, researched class offerings, extracurricular activities, took tours, etc. In addition, to no great surprise, I found that students at these schools were accepted into college, many of which are well-regarded and sometimes elite institutions. I also found that these schools preach love to all, tolerance, actually serve their communities, and engage in mission trips around the world to serve others.

I also respectfully ask that you withdraw this bill as it will have irreparable harm to student interscholastic and extracurricular activities if schools opt to not "register" with the State. There is simply no good reason for this bill.

Thank you,