

As a mother of latino children in grades 10, 9, 6, 3, 1, I strongly oppose this bill. We have chosen to make great sacrifices to send our children to religiously affiliated schools so that they are able to get the education in our faith that will provide them with a strong foundation for their future. Most of my children are also adopted from the foster care system in Oregon and the small class sizes that private school provides has been key in their being able to overcome their educational struggles. This bill poses as a voluntary registration while requiring that private schools either register OR forgo extracurricular activities such as National Honor Society or sports.

ODE has enough work with overseeing the public schools. To then force ODE to oversee and approve hiring, teacher policies and curriculum is a giant overreach of the state's authority and penalizes students whose parents have chosen to send them to a private school. Our public schools are over crowded and underfunded. Why would we add to the public education departments already overwhelming load by foisting private school administration on them?

Oregon has tried to target private schools before with the 1922 Compulsory Education Act. Please do not eliminate the rights of parents to choose the education they need for their children.

If, of course, the public schools are going to now offer education in all religions individually...I would consider public school if ODE worked with the archdiocese of the Catholic Church to develop and offer classes in authentic Catholic doctrine. If public schools want to be in charge of private schools, then they should be mandated to provide Christian and Catholic, mormon, etc doctrinal classes with the small, intimate class sizes found in private schools, in the public schools so that parents can choose to send their children there. Until the state allows true, unpartisan and unbiased religious education in schools and can provide the small class sizes needed for trauma affected students, they should stop trying to administrate and control private schools which are able to provide what these students need most.

To require private schools to register in order to be able to participate in OSAA sports is discriminatory towards students of all races who want a religious education and the opportunity to play athletics or other extracurriculars. As hispanics, my children already face enough struggles in their education and for you to discriminate against them simply for our education choices based on our cultural background is troubling and disappointing. I would have thought that you would be more concerned with making sure that all marginalized students have access to the things they need to be successful instead of playing power politics with our children. Again, thank you for your consideration please vote NO on SB Bill 233.