

Dear Senators-

I am the chair of the Pilgrim Lutheran Christian School (PLCS) in Beaverton, Oregon. Our school serves pre-kindergarten through 8th grade students and their families. I am writing to urge you to vote down SB 223. It is not clear to me what problems this bill is trying to address. For example, PLCS already goes through an accreditation process on a set periodic basis to ensure that our students are receiving a solid education. This accreditation and our students are accepted by both public and private High Schools. Our students do very well on the standardized testing that we conduct. We already require background checks for all of our staff. In essence the requirements of this legislation would likely result in duplicative efforts that are not needed. At worst, the advisory committee formed under this legislation could develop curriculum that would not serve our students well. Finally, our private schools have led the way in the state to get our students back into the classrooms in a safe fashion during Covid. We have had no instances of Covid in our school that we are aware of despite opening for 2 hours a day in the fall, to opening full day after Christmas break. I urge you to reject this bill. Eric Strecker