

## Opposition to SB 223

The Association of Christian Schools International ("ACSI") is a Christian nonprofit association providing support services to 24,000 Christian schools that educate 5.5 million children in over 100 countries. ACSI serves 2,000 Christian pre-schools, elementary, and secondary schools and 90 post-secondary institutions in the United States. ACSI represents the interest of 49 Christian schools in Oregon and submit this letter of opposition on their behalf and our own.

This bill would undermine already existing standards created in 2018, House Bill 4036, to address private school student participation in activities that may be offered or sponsored by public school systems, programs that private school families pay their equal share of taxes to fund. This bill would force interscholastic organizations to prohibit the participation of non-register private schools, and their students, from participating in activities they would otherwise be welcomed to join in and have in fact joined in for some time. The rationale is thin and unpersuasive as to why such a prohibition is now needed after so recent an effort, HB 4036 (2018), struck a compromise with all affected parties. Further, this policy will largely impact religious schools who make up the majority of Oregon's estimated 400 private schools.

Government coercion to force private schools to register with the state by denying children their right to participate in interscholastic and extracurricular activities is a cruel blow. We all know the positive impact of sports and extracurricular activities to a child's social, mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. To pass SB 223 would be a harm to students by limiting their access to such activities.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Association of Christian Schools International