



SJR 23: Tax Credits for K-21 Education Expenses

Testimony for Senate Education and Workforce Development 2.21.2013

Three objects:

- 1) The wording of the resolution thus misleads the voter. While the resolution says that “Money may not be drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any religious or theological institution...” tax credits divert funds from the Treasury, which has the same affect. The legislature should work for clarity with voters, not trickery.

- 2) Because of the provisions for separation of church and state, this measure, if passed, will end up in the courts. This referral would not reflect well on the legislature.

- 3) According to IRS studies, there is ample fraud in overstatement of itemized deductions. An Oregon-only deduction is worth less than 10 cents on the dollar. A \$1.00 tax credit, however, is worth 100 cents on the dollar. That is quite a temptation and one you should not endorse. Designing a system that would provide third party reporting to reduce fraud would be quite impossible, given the broad range of item including as deserving of a credit in the enabling legislation.

We urge you to kill SJR 23 in committee.