

Dear Chariman Dembrow:

I strongly oppose SB 223. This bill is a significant threat to religious freedom and parental choice. It also undermines private education in Oregon by making private religious schools subject to oversight by the state. By choice, our grandchildren are enrolled in a faith-based Christian academy which is currently a member of OSAA, and two of them participate in competitive cheerleading in the public high school. We do not want this opportunity taken away from them, especially after the isolation they have endured due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since I pay Oregon taxes that fund Oregon's public education system, my grandchildren should be given the same opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities as their public school peers.

Our grandchildren attend a faith-based Christian academy because we want them to have an education that honors their faith rather than discredit it as many of our public schools are inclined to do. Please stand with parents and grandparents like us and vote "NO" on SB 223. This legislation is unnecessary and will only harm our children.

Lane Clem