

Dear Chairman Dembrow and members of the Senate Committee On Education:

I am writing to you as a father of two kids who attend Salem Academy, a private school in Salem Oregon. They moved to SA when they were done with Elementary School because my wife and I wanted them to be taught in a Christian setting and because as we volunteered in Public Elementary schools we were dismayed at the decline that we saw in educational, moral and basic decency standards. We also wanted our kids to be able to participate in more extra curricular activities and Salem Academy presented more opportunities.

Educating my kids is a responsibility that I take seriously and schools are an important tool in my tool belt. When you put private education under the purview of a public entity you undermine the work that parents do in choosing schools for their kids. There isn't an outpouring of parents asking for this change. There isn't a nexus between kids going to private schools and being ill equipped to enter the work force or proceeding to college when they finish the 12th grade.

Don't be a legislator that makes laws to address non-issues. If the people who are pushing this legislation are private school parents then it would make sense to pursue this legislation to help out citizens who are making a sizeable investment in education (private school tuition AND taxes supporting public schools). If the people who are pursuing this legislation aren't affiliated with Private Schools then you have to ask yourself why would people with no direct involvement want to pursue something that would have negative effects on Private Schools.

Be a good human and a responsible legislator. Vote this down in committee and leave the Senate floor for legislation that addresses real issues facing the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

T.J. Sullivan  
Salem, OR.