

Dear Chairman Dembrow and members of the committee,

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 it subject to oversight by the state.

My child's educational needs are best served by our private Christian school. I chose to enroll my child in faith-based, private education. That was my choice as a parent.

My children attend Crosshill Christian School, and there's a reason that they don't attend public school. Faith is very important to my family, and we are looking for a different kind of education.

It shouldn't matter what type of school our children attend. I send my child to private school, and I also pay Oregon taxes that pay for Oregon's public education system. My children should have the same ability to participate in extracurricular activities as their public school peers.

Children have been punished enough over the past 12 months with sports and every other extracurricular activity taken away from them. Now that these activities are starting to resume again, why is this bill looking to remove them again from private school children, simply because of the religious and educational choices we have made for our family?

There is no compelling reason for this bill. Private schools already have mechanisms in place to protect their students. The state needs to stay out of the rest of it and leave the choice of what their child's educational experience looks like to the parents that are paying for it.