

To our public servants,

Thank you for your service and for seeking to align your actions with the will of the people. It is in that spirit that I implore you to oppose SB223. Currently, ODE policy states that "non-public education is recognized as a vital part of Oregon's educational system. Private schools do not have to register with the State of Oregon..." and this policy has served Oregon parents well for years, providing a needed choice in education that the parents of 50,000 children value tremendously. The reasons for choosing private education are numerous and vary greatly family to family but the one consistency among all families is that they have chosen something different than public education. Requiring private schools to register with the state and subjecting them to an oversight committee which would examine all areas of school life essentially destroys that difference. Furthermore there seems to be a break in the logic of this bill. As I understand if private schools wish to compete against public schools in sporting events, then the private school must report to the advisory committee regarding areas of Curriculum, Student behavior & discipline policies, Instructional time, Student mental health & abuse investigation, and a variety of other areas. To say all of that is necessary for two schools to compete in the same sporting event is a gross overreach.

I humbly ask for you to oppose SB223 and allow private schools the same level of autonomy that has allowed their students to flourish for generations.

Sincerely,  
Scott Swanson