

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose this bill!!! Freedom to choose what kind of school you allow your children to attend is of the highest importance. This variety allows for people to follow their various beliefs/ religions (and to have those taught to their children). Handing control of privately operated school to the state government would cut into the diversity we have now. There should never be one system of thought taught to all children, especially if it goes against most parents will!!! I myself will pull my children out of their private school if this bill does pass. You will see a huge amount of children being pulled from private schools, which means many of these schools will probably close. Is this really a smart move? Here are some other points to consider:

The Senate Interim Committee on Education has proposed Senate Bill 223, which would restrict public schools from participating in interscholastic sports or activities (OSAA) with any private schools that are not registered with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

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, unless they are contracting with public school district for services."

If enacted, SB223 would change this, and would:

- Require private schools to register with ODE annually
- Create an ODE advisory committee to oversee Oregon's private schools.

Private schools would be required to submit reports and information for approval by the committee in the following areas:

- Curriculum
- Student behavior & discipline policies
- Instructional time
- Student mental health & abuse investigation
- Facility health and safety
- Teacher competency & background checks
- This bill is a threat to parents' First Amendment right to religious freedom and Fourteenth Amendment right to liberty, which includes the right to choose private education for their children.

- The Supreme Court has upheld parents' First and Fourteenth Amendment rights as they relate to education.
 - The First Amendment grants parents the right to choose education for their children that doesn't interfere with their religious beliefs.
 - This bill is wasteful and unnecessary. Neither OSAA nor any private schools have requested this change.

Sincerely,

Sara Davidson