

We are writing you as parents of one child currently attending and one child that completed primary and secondary education in a faith based private school. We chose private education so that our children could learn and mature in an environment consistent with our family moral and religious principles. While unfortunate, this is an environment that is no longer available in a public school system that has lost focus on character and education, driven by political motivations and special interests.

SB 223 establishes a registration system with ***no stated benefit to the schools or students***. The actual intended “oversight” is written in vague terms open to broad interpretation and future regulations with no controls. Furthermore, the bureaucracy created to manage registration is not explicitly funded. This will result in future taxes or expensive fees in addition to the added administration costs for private schools.

While the value is ambiguous the consequences are crystal clear. Private schools that choose not to register for this unnecessary regulation would be excluded from extracurricular activities. Restricting public schools from participation in organizations that allow unregistered private schools in effect forces those organizations to exclude said schools. Organizations include local and national entities that have significant influence on student motivation, development and future opportunities in academics and athletics. This is nothing other than coercion designed to force registration, again with no benefit to students.

Parents that send their children to private schools do so voluntarily and at significant expense, selecting and paying for an independent education based on the merits of the school. This is in addition to the taxes that fund the public school system. They do so to provide a better education and development experience than the public school system currently offers. SB 223 threatens the ability of private schools to act in the best interest of the student. The State of Oregon would be much better served by legislation focused on the failing public education system rather than overreaching regulation of performing private schools.

Please vote “NO” on SB 223

Sincerely,

Don and Jennifer Edenfeld