

Dear Chair Dembrow; Vice Chair Thomsen; Senators Gelser, Gorsek, and Robinson:

I speak in strong opposition to SB 233. In the past year, Oregon Public Schools have underserved and disappointed Oregon taxpayers, causing extreme stress and irreparable damage to both children and families in Oregon communities. SB 223 is an obvious effort to stifle the entry and growth of private schools in Oregon. A majority of Oregonians with children in public schools are pushing back against our public schools, seeking new opportunities for school choice and vouchers. Passage of SB 233 now will embolden the community, inspiring a legal response [U.S. Supreme Court Wisconsin v. Yoder, 406 U.S. 205, 213 (1972), Meyer v. State of Nebraska, 262 U.S. 390 (1923) and Ohio Supreme Court Ohio v. Whisner, 351 N.E.2d 750, 768 (1976)], embarrassing legislators by striking this down. I would then expect a response in the upcoming election cycle with initiatives to support elected officials who will expand school choice.

Regards,
David Durocher