

To The Senate Committee on Education,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 223. I am a resident of Oregon City, a registered nurse at Providence Willamette Falls Hospital, an alumni of North Clackamas Christian School, a parent of 3 students at North Clackamas Christian School, and a member of the board of directors at North Clackamas Christian School. I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

1. It is an infringement of my 1st amendment right to religious freedom. The private schools in Oregon should have the freedom to teach their students the curriculum that they choose-Catholic, Mormon, Christian, Adventist, Christian Science, etc.

2. It is an infringement of my 14th amendment right to liberty, which as a citizen of the USA, gives me the right to liberty, which gives me the right to choose private school education for my kids. According to SB223 private schools would be held to the same requirements as public without any funding as support.

3. SB 223 is a waste of taxpayer money, that if passes, would create a new layer of bureaucracy in a time when the budget is stretched so thin and the state cannot seem to figure out how to manage its own public schools.

4. If private schools decide on a basis of religious freedom and liberty not to register who will suffer? All the kids who go to these schools will have less opportunities in all extracurricular activities. For what reason? To what end? So the state can monitor COVID protocols in private schools? North Clackamas Christian School has followed all rules and regulations in regard to COVID and has had protocols in place for the duration. If there are schools that have not, I suggest that ODE and OSHA deal with them directly instead of creating new bureaucracy that would infringe on the rights of all Oregon private schools.

5. According to SB 223 section 3.3 pg 2, section 5.1 pg 3, and section 5.4 page 3 the ODE will require compliance with their criteria, has the right to revoke or deny private schools registration, and can require any reports or information from private schools. This is overreaching on the part of the government (ODE) and places a great deal of private school business in their hands.

6. My kids' school, N. Clackamas Christian School is fully accredited by Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), Cognia, and we are members of Oregon Federation of Independent Schools (OFIS) and OSAA. To be accredited requires reporting, requirements and protocols, as well as on-site examination. Since our school is accredited it seems redundant to ask us to prove ourselves again in another format process.

7. We at North Clackamas Christian do not want or need this process in our school. We do not think of it as a benefit but as an infringement on our rights and freedoms. It is a waste of tax-payer dollars and overreaching to push government control into private schools.

Thank you for reading my testimony and for considering my opposition position against SB 223. Your support would be greatly appreciated.