

SB 223

I am a parent of students who attended Beaverton schools and a retired public school teacher. I would like to voice my strong opposition to the proposed SB 223.

I feel the features of the bill are completely unnecessary. Private schools are just that - private. They are there to serve the needs of the children. Parents select them because they have determined the schools best meet the need of their children. It is not the State who should determine what and by whom students are educated. It is the parents (or guardian) on behalf of their children. Parents and children can assess quality education. In addition, the majority of private schools already go through an accreditation process.

The bill is also harmful. It removes the ability of the schools to meet customer demands by requiring those institutions to meet the requirements of the registration system imposed.

Though the bill wording suggests the registration process is voluntary, in fact, it levies significant penalties on private schools should they elect not to participate. I fear this would only be a start to Oregon's take over of private education.

Oregon has many rules and regulations that prevent parents and guardians from obtaining the best education for their children. Do not impose yet more restrictions on families' efforts to give their children the optimal start in life.

I urge you NOT to support SB223

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Susan Pozdena