

Dear Chairman Dembrow, I strongly oppose SB 223. This bill is a significant threat to religious freedom and parental choice. It also undermines private education in Oregon by making it subject to oversight by the state. I WILL be contacting the ACLJ as well as local and national news outlets to make them aware of this attempt at massive overreach by our state government. This would essentially be the same thing as asking pastors to submit their sermons to the state for approval or else they will lose their tax exemption status. SB 223 adds expenses to private schools and early childhood programs with little (if any) benefit to the schools or students served by them. The Legislature passed a law in 2019 to protect private school students, and SB 223 is unnecessary in light of that legislation. This is also a violation of the Federal Religious Freedom Act of 1993 and you can be assured that we will take this all the way to the Supreme Court if we have to and Oregon will lose. Please don't use our students as leverage in political fights. I ask you to stand with parents, like me, and vote 'NO' on SB 223. It's unnecessary and will only harm our children.