

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. SB 223 would essentially force private schools to register with the state or cut off student access to choir, sports, and other interscholastic programs. Our schools already prioritize student safety, but this bill goes too far.

I find it very unfair to punish our children by excluding them from enriching extracurricular activities that are currently offered to both public and private school students. My children attend East Linn Christian Academy, and there is a reason that they do not attend public school. Faith is especially important to my family, and we are looking for a different kind of education. It absolutely should not matter what type of school our children attend. I send my children to private school, and I also pay Oregon taxes that pay for Oregon's public education system. My children should have the same ability to participate in extracurricular activities as their public-school peers. Please do not use our students as leverage in political fights. I ask you to stand with parents, like me, and vote 'NO' on SB 223. It is unnecessary and will only harm our children. Thank you for your time.