

I am writing to the Senate Committee on Education in opposition to SB 223. This bill is concerning to me as a parent of private school students. We have chosen to put our children in private education even though it is a financial sacrifice because our values and beliefs align with our private school mission and we want our kids to have the best education along with the spiritual growth that is incorporated in all aspects of their education. There should be no reason why the public education system should have the influence that is brought about by this bill. If private schools have to get permission from ODE to approve curriculum, and other aspects of the school than that in fact makes it no longer a private school.

Why is this bill being introduced? What problems will it solve? From my view it is adding more work to ODE which means they have less resources being used to actually help our public education, which honestly is hurting. Oregon public schools are not meeting the needs of their own students and now they want to have oversight into private schools?

There should be no reason for Oregon private schools to have to register with ODE in order to participate in extracurricular activities. We are all tax payers, so as a tax payer my child should be able to be involved in any extra curricular activities with other private and public schools without the overreach into their private school education that this bill seeks to do.

I ask you to vote no on SB 223.