



Hosanna - Triad Christian

5000 Hosanna Way, Klamath Falls, OR 97603 541.882.7732

Hosanna – Triad Christian School, a private K-12 school in Klamath Falls, OR, has reviewed the proposed Senate Bill 223-2001 and strongly opposes adoption of the legislation. The reasons for taking this position are as follows:

While acknowledging the “unique qualities of private education” the bill would subject any registered private school to regulation by the Board of Education through unspecified rules regarding facilities, teacher qualifications, educational program, and curricula, as well as educational programs from grades 9 through 12 to meet unspecified preparation for post-secondary education.

Currently schools offering programs for grades 9 through 12 participate in accreditation through AdvanEd/Cognia, Association of Christian Schools International, or other organizations that already validate most, if not all, of the areas delineated in the oversight of the Board of Education in the proposed legislation.

Private schools would not be forced to register with the Board of Education. However, failure to do so would prevent them from participating in OSAA sponsored activities along with those sponsored by other organizations. This appears to be the only enforcement for the proposed legislation since public schools would be barred from joining any such organization allowing unregistered private schools to participate.

It is unclear what the motivation for the legislation is. If it were to protect the health, safety, and well-being of students, it would fail since registration is voluntary. If there are substantive issues with private schools, a corrective outcome could be better addressed by including private schools in the appropriate laws listed in Section 4 of the bill that do not currently apply to private schools. If it is to put all private schools under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Education, it also fails since registration is voluntary. The effect upon OSAA sports and other activities would be significant since many private schools would reject being submitted to regulation by the Bureau of Education. The effect would be to deprive students of extracurricular activities as well as disrupt the leagues in which public, and private schools currently participate.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the impact of this proposed legislation on our private school.

Sincerely,

Bernard Simonsen
Business Administrator
Hosanna – Triad Christian School

*Head Administrator: Steve Hamlin * www.HosannaChristian.org * Fax: 541.882.6940*