

Dear Chairman Dembrow, I strongly oppose SB 223. This bill is a significant threat to parental choice. It also undermines private education in Oregon by making it subject to oversight by the state. I enrolled my child at Santiam Christian Schools because she has learning disabilities that are best served by the smaller class sizes and greater access to teachers provided at her Christian school. The faith-based education also helps her deal with her trauma suffered when she was abandoned as a small child in China. It's unfair to punish our children by excluding them from enriching extracurricular activities that are currently offered to both public and private school students. I find it despicable to threaten to take something away from our kids if the school doesn't comply with unnecessary regulation. I understand the goal of SB 223 is to promote the safety and well-being of students. However, SB 155 passed in 2019 already does that, making this bill unnecessary.

My daughter's school is currently a member of OSAA and she participates in girls soccer. Why would the committee want to take this opportunity away from my child, especially after the isolation created due to the pandemic.

Please don't use our students as leverage in political fights. I ask you and the full committee to stand with parents, like me, and vote 'NO' on SB 223. It's unnecessary and will only harm our children.

Thank you for your attention,  
Michael Anderson  
Albany, OR