



# Catlin Gabel

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Education  
From: Tim Bazemore, Head of School, Catlin Gabel School  
Re: **SB 223**  
Date: March 15, 2021

I am writing on behalf of Catlin Gabel School, which has been educating students since 1957 on Barnes Rd. in Washington County. We strongly oppose the adoption of SB 223 as an effort to, in effect, license the private schools in our state, which have long served as an important choice for many Oregonians.

SB 223 is not about creating a simple "registry" of private schools; it is an attempt to bring under closer state control all Oregon private schools, with burdensome penalties possible for any school not deemed to meet arbitrary criteria.

At the request of ODE, Oregon repealed private school registration laws in 2011 because they were costly, not aligned with ODE purposes, and ineffective.

Failures of private school employees to comply with certain SB 223 requirements would be a basis to initiate extensive hearing processes to deny or revoke a private school's registration and thus terminate OSAA and other student activity participation, which has the potential to unfairly penalize Oregon's students and families.

SB 223 is unnecessary and redundant. The need that SB 223 ostensibly addresses is already addressed in other ways in state statutes. SB 155 was adopted in 2019 to solve the problem of sexual misconduct reporting by individuals not under TSPC jurisdiction. ODE itself explains that SB 155 effectively serves the purposes that SB 223 bill sponsors argue are necessary to address. \*

Catlin Gabel School, which currently employs over 225 faculty and staff members and enrolls 775 students from the greater Portland region believes that SB 223 is an unnecessary and unjustified burden on Oregon's private schools with high costs to the schools and the state of Oregon and should not be adopted.

Respectfully,

Tim Bazemore  
Head of School  
March 16, 2021

\*ODE website re: SB 155:

*Senate Bill 155 directs the Oregon Department of Education (department) to do three things. First, the bill requires the department to investigate allegations of suspected sexual misconduct that involve a student and an individual who is a school employee, contractor, agent, or volunteer who is not licensed with the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC). The bill directs the department to begin those investigations starting on July 1, 2020.*

*Second, the bill directs the department to provide verification information to education providers when they are hiring an individual as a school employee or bringing on a contractor, agent, or volunteer to provide services in schools. Education providers are required to verify with the department whether it has an ongoing investigation or a substantiated report of sexual misconduct for an applicant who is not licensed with TSPC before hiring that individual as a school employee.*

*Education providers also are required to verify with the department whether it has an ongoing investigation or a substantiated report of sexual misconduct for any contractor, agent, or volunteer who is not licensed with TSPC before the education provider accepts any services from that individual.*

*Finally, the bill requires the department to provide notification to education providers when it receives notification from the Department of Human Services that a report of abuse involving a child and a person who is a school employee, contractor, agent, or volunteer has been made.*