

Dear Chairman Dembrow. I strongly oppose SB 223, as it is a significant threat to religious freedom and parental choice. My child attends Santiam Christian High School, where his needs are best served in a faith-based, Biblical, private education. I feel that SB 223 would force private schools to register with the state or cut off student access to sports, choir, debate, FFA, and other interscholastic programs. Our school absolutely prioritizes student safety, and this bill goes too far. Santiam Christian is currently a member of OSAA, where my son plays Basketball. Why would you want to take this opportunity away from him, especially after all the heart-break during the COVID-19 pandemic? My child should have the same ability to participate in extracurricular activities as his public school peers. It should not matter what type of school he attends. I pay Oregon taxes that pay for Oregon's public education system, and also happily sacrifice to pay for private Christian school tuition because it is important to our family. Please do not sink as low as to 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 an unnecessary bill that will only harm our children. Thank you.