

Hello, I am writing today to urge you to vote no on SB 223. SB 223 adds expenses to private schools and early childhood programs with little (if any) benefit to the schools or students served by them. The Legislature passed a law in 2019 to protect private school students, and SB 223 is unnecessary in light of that legislation.

Unfortunately, this bill really is not voluntary registration as it imposes stiff consequences for schools that opt out of registration or lose their registration. The bill prohibits any public school district from being a member of any "voluntary organization" if that organization allows non-registered private schools to be members. This places "voluntary organizations" in an impossible position: Either exclude Oregon non-registered private schools or exclude Oregon public schools. 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.

SB 223 would essentially force private schools to register with the state or cut off student access to choir, sports, and other interscholastic programs. Our schools already prioritize student safety, but this bill goes too far.

Thank you for hearing my request.

Sincerely,
Jaime Nelson

Copy:
Senator Sara Gelser
Representative Dan Rayfield