

Thank you Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members for your service to our state. My name is Charissa Hatten and our family is a part of a private school in Central Oregon.

I am strongly opposing SB 223 and urging you do to the same.

As a family who has chosen private school for many years, we are deeply concerned that SB 223 is detrimental to our private schools and intrudes upon school choice and our Fourteenth Amendment right to liberty, which includes the right to choose private education for their children. Please consider the following reason why this bill is unnecessary and unconstitutional:

- Families of over 50,000 Oregon schoolchildren choose private schools for a reason. Many parents have religious or conscientious objections to public schooling for their children.
- This bill is a threat to parents' First Amendment right to religious freedom and Fourteenth Amendment right to liberty, which includes the right to choose private education for their children.
- This bill effectively puts a state committee in charge of all Oregon private schools. Private schools would become de facto public schools, putting ODE in charge of curriculum, schedule, facilities, policies, and staffing.

Societal Impact:

- Exclusion from interscholastic activities (OSAA) reduces the interaction between communities and creates walls, rather than bridges.
- This bill is a threat to school choice and the diversity of educational options that currently exist in Oregon.
- Diversity in education promotes human flourishing, pursuit of excellence and highest potential, and is the foundation for a productive citizenry in our state.

Financial Impact:

- This bill is wasteful and unnecessary. Neither OSAA nor any private schools have requested this change.
- This creates another layer of government bureaucracy and more regulations on private schools which will take money, time, and attention away from actually educating kids.
- Oregon's state budget is already strained due to the impact of COVID-19. The priority for school spending should be getting kids back in the classroom and learning!

Thank you for your time and I urge you to vote NO on SB 223.

*Charissa Hatten*