

Greetings Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thompson, and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB223, and request your no vote on this legislation. Oregon is a place where we celebrate our diversity. We have access to, in my opinion, unequalled beauty and diversity of landscape from wild frontier to developed cityscape. We have a vibrant diversity of culture from many races, religious views, conservative, liberal, rural, and urban areas. Naturally, with this diversity, comes an equally vibrant need for choices in education, which is being filled with the many different options Oregon families are enjoying.

I see no positive outcome of putting private schools under an ODE advisory committee, as this would make all schools the same, and reduce choice. All Oregon students, regardless of where they are receiving their education, are tested by the State, to make sure they are receiving a solid core education. This bill would have the affect of lessening the vibrancy that is Oregon. Please keep our choices and with that our diversity.

Thank you for your consideration,

Belinda A. Coalman